

(يَخْلُقُ اللَّهُ مَا يَشَاءُ)

(Allah creates what He wills.) meaning by His power, because what He wills happens and what He does not will does not happen. So he says:

(إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ)

(Verily, Allah is able to do all things.)

(لَقَدْ أَنْزَلْنَا ءَايَاتٍ مُّبَيِّنَاتٍ وَاللَّهُ يَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ
إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ)

(46. We have indeed sent down manifest Ayat. And Allah guides whom He wills to the straight path.) Allah states that in this Qur'an He has revealed many clear and unambiguous rulings, words of wisdom and parables, and that He guides people of understanding, insight and intellect to ponder and understand them. He says:

(وَاللَّهُ يَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ)

(And Allah guides whom He wills to the Straight Path.)

(وَيَقُولُونَ آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَبِالرَّسُولِ وَأَطَعْنَا ثُمَّ يَتَوَلَّى
فَرِيقٌ مِّنْهُمْ مِّنْ بَعْدِ ذَلِكَ وَمَا أُولَئِكَ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ -
وَإِذَا دُعُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ لِيَحْكُمَ بَيْنَهُمْ إِذَا
فَرِيقٌ مِّنْهُمْ مُّعْرِضُونَ - وَإِنْ يَكُنْ لَهُمُ الْحَقُّ
يَأْتُوا إِلَيْهِ مُذْعِنِينَ - أَفَبِ قُلُوبِهِمْ مَّرَضٌ أَمْ
ارْتَابُوا أَمْ يَخَافُونَ أَنْ يَحِيفَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ وَرَسُولُهُ
بَلْ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ - إِنَّمَا كَانَ قَوْلَ
الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذَا دُعُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ لِيَحْكُمَ بَيْنَهُمْ

أَنْ يَقُولُوا سَمِعْنَا وَأَطَعْنَا وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُقْلِحُونَ -
وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَيَخْشَ اللَّهَ وَيَتَّقْهُ
فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْفَائِزُونَ)

(47. They say: "We have believed in Allah and in the Messenger, and we obey," then a party of them turn away thereafter, such are not believers.) (48. And when they are called to Allah and His Messenger, to judge between them, lo! a party of them refuses and turns away.) (49. But if the truth is on their side, they come to him willingly with submission.) (50. Is there a disease in their hearts Or do they doubt or fear lest Allah and His Messenger should wrong them in judgement. Nay, it is they themselves who are the wrongdoers.) (51. The only saying of the faithful believers, when they are called to Allah and His Messenger, to judge between them, is that they say: "We hear and we obey." And such are the successful.) (52. And whosoever obeys Allah and His Messenger, fears Allah, and has Taqwa of Him, such are the successful.)

The Treachery of the Hypocrites and the Attitude of the Believers

with their tongues,

(أَمَّا بِاللَّهِ وَبِالرَّسُولِ وَأَطَعْنَا ثُمَّ يَتَوَلَّى فَرِيقٌ
مِّنْهُمْ مِّن بَعْدِ ذَلِكَ)

("We have believed in Allah and in the Messenger, and we obey," then a party of them turn away thereafter,) meaning, their actions contradict their deeds, and they say that which they do not do. Allah says:

(وَمَا أُولَئِكَ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ)

(such are not believers.)

(وَإِذَا دُعُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ لِيَحْكُمَ بَيْنَهُمْ)

(And when they are called to Allah and His Messenger, to judge between them...) means, when they are asked to follow the guidance which Allah has revealed to His Messenger, they turn away and are too arrogantly proud of themselves to follow him. This is like the Ayah:

(أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِينَ يَزْعُمُونَ أَنَّهُمْ ءَامَنُوا بِمَا أُنْزِلَ
إِلَيْكَ وَمَا أُنْزِلَ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ)

(Have you not seen those who claim that they believe in that which has been sent down to you, and that which was sent down before you,) until His saying:

(رَأَيْتَ الْمُنَافِقِينَ يَصُدُّونَ عَنْكَ صُدُودًا)

(you see the hypocrites turn away from you with aversion) 4: 60-61(.

(وَإِنْ يَكُنْ لَهُمُ الْحَقُّ يَأْتُوا إِلَيْهِ مُذْعِنِينَ)

(But if the truth is on their side, they come to him willingly with submission.) means, if the ruling will be in their favor and not against them, then they will come and will listen and obey, which is what is meant by the phrase

(مُذْعِنِينَ)

(willingly with submission.) But if the ruling will go against him, he turns away and demands something that goes against the truth, and he prefers to refer for judgement to someone other than the Prophet so that his false claims may prevail. His acceptance in the beginning was not because he believed that it was the truth, but because it happened to be in accordance with his desires. So when the truth went against what he was hoping for, he turned away from it. Allah said:

(أَفِي قُلُوبِهِمْ مَرَضٌ)

(Is there a disease in their hearts...) meaning, their situation cannot be anything else, they must necessarily have a disease in their hearts, or else they have some doubts about the religion, or they are afraid that Allah and His Messenger will be unjust in their ruling against them. Whichever it is, it is pure disbelief, and Allah knows which of these characteristics each one of them has. d

(بَلْ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ)

(Nay, it is they themselves who are the wrongdoers.) means, they are the evildoers who commit immoral actions, and Allah and His Messenger are innocent of the injustice and unfairness that they imagine; exalted be Allah and His Messenger above such a thing. Then Allah tells us about the attributes of the believers who respond to Allah and His Messenger and who seek no other way apart from the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of His Messenger . Allah says:

(إِنَّمَا كَانَ قَوْلَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذَا دُعُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ لِيَحْكُمَ بَيْنَهُمْ أَنْ يَقُولُوا سَمِعْنَا وَأَطَعْنَا)

(The only saying of the faithful believers, when they are called to Allah and His Messenger, to judge between them, is that they say: "We hear and we obey".) meaning, to hear to obey. Allah describes them as having attained success, which is achieving what one wants and being saved from what one fears. So Allah says:

(وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ)

(And such are the successful.) Concerning the Ayah:

(أَنْ يَقُولُوا سَمِعْنَا وَأَطَعْنَا)

(they say: "We hear and we obey".), Qatadah said: "We were told that when `Ubadah bin As-Samit, who had been present at Al-`Aqabah and at Badr, and was one of the leaders of the Ansar, was dying, he said to his nephew Junadah bin Abi Umayyah: `Shall I not tell you what you must do and what is your due' He said, `Yes.' He said: `You have to listen and obey when times are easy and when they are hard, when you feel energetic and when you do not want to, and when you feel selfish. You have to train your tongue to speak the truth. Do not go against those who are in authority, unless they openly command you to commit acts of disobedience to Allah. Whenever you are commanded to do something that goes against the Book of Allah, then follow the Book of Allah.'" Qatadah said: We were told that Abu Ad-Darda' said, "There is no Islam except through obedience to Allah, and no goodness except in Jama`ah. Sincerity is to Allah and His Messenger, and to the Khalifah and all the believers." He said: "And we were told that `Umar bin Al-Khattab, may Allah be pleased with him, used to say; `The bonds of Islam are La ilaha illallah, establishing prayer, paying Zakah and obeying those whom Allah has given authority over the affairs of the Muslims." This was recorded by Ibn Abi Hatim. There are very many Hadiths and reports which state that it is obligatory to obey the Book of Allah, the Sunnah of His Messenger, the Rightly-Guided Khalifahs and the Imams when they command us to obey Allah; there are too many of these reports to quote them all here.

(وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ)

(And whosoever obeys Allah and His Messenger,) in what he is commanded with, and avoid what he is forbidden,

(وَيَخْشَى اللَّهَ)

(fears Allah,) means, for his past sins,

(وَيَتَّقِهِ)

(and has Taqwa of Him,) regarding sins he may commit in the future.

(فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْفَائِزُونَ)

(such as the successful.) means, those who will attain all goodness and be saved from all evil in this world and the Hereafter.

(وَأَقْسَمُوا بِاللَّهِ جَهْدَ أَيْمَانِهِمْ لَئِنْ أَمَرْتَهُمْ
لَيَخْرُجُنَّ قُلْ لَا تُقْسِمُوا طَاعَةٌ مَعْرُوفَةٌ إِنَّ اللَّهَ
خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ - قُلْ أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا
الرَّسُولَ فَإِنْ تَوَلَّوْا فَإِنَّمَا عَلَيْهِ مَا حُمِّلَ وَعَلَيْكُمْ
مَا حُمِّلْتُمْ وَإِنْ تُطِيعُوهُ تَهْتَدُوا وَمَا عَلَى الرَّسُولِ
إِلَّا الْبَلَاغُ الْمُبِينُ)

(53. They swear by Allah their strongest oaths that if only you would order them, they would leave. Say: "Swear you not; obedience is known. Verily, Allah knows well what you do.") (54. Say: "Obey Allah and obey the Messenger, but if you turn away, he is only responsible for the duty placed on him and you for that placed on you. If you obey him, you shall be on the right guidance. The Messenger's duty is only to convey (the Message) in a clear way.") Allah says about the hypocrites who had promised the Messenger and sworn that if he were to command them to go out for battle, they would go:

(قُلْ لَا تُقْسِمُوا)

(Say: "Swear you not...") meaning, do not swear this oath.

(طَاعَةٌ مَعْرُوفَةٌ)

(obedience is known.) It was said that the meaning is, your obedience is known, i.e., it is known that your obedience is merely verbal and is not accompanied by action. Every time you swear an oath you lie. This is like the Ayah:

(يَحْلِفُونَ لَكُمْ لِتَرْضَوْا عَنْهُمْ)

(They swear to you that you may be pleased with them...))9:96(And Allah says:

(اتَّخَذُوا أَيْمَانَهُمْ جُنَّةً)

(They have made their oaths a screen (for their evil actions).))58:16(It is part of their nature to tell lies, even in the issues they choose, as Allah says:

(أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِينَ نَفَقُوا يَقُولُونَ لِإِخْوَانِهِمُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ لَئِنْ أُخْرِجْتُمْ لَنَخْرُجَنَّ مَعَكُمْ وَلَا نُطِيعُ فِيكُمْ أَحَدًا أَبَدًا وَإِنْ قُوتِلْتُمْ لَنَنْصُرَنَّكُمْ وَاللَّهُ يَشْهَدُ إِنَّهُمْ لَكَاذِبُونَ - لَئِنْ أُخْرِجُوا لَا يَخْرُجُونَ مَعَهُمْ وَلَئِنْ قُوتِلُوا لَا يَنْصُرُونَهُمْ وَلَئِنْ نَصَرُوهُمْ لَيُولَيَنَّ الْأَدْبَرَ ثُمَّ لَا يُصَرُّونَ)

(Have you not observed the hypocrites who say to their friends among the people of the Scripture who disbelieve: "If you are expelled, we indeed will go out with you, and we shall never obey any one against you; and if you are attacked, we shall indeed help you." But Allah is Witness that they verily are liars. Surely, if they are expelled, never will they go out with them; and if they are attacked, they will never help them. And if they do help them, they will turn their backs, and they will not be victorious.) 59:11-12(Then Allah says:

(قُلْ أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ)

(Say: "Obey Allah and obey the Messenger...)" meaning, follow the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of His Messenger .

(فَإِنْ تَوَلَّوْا)

(but if you turn away,) if you ignore what he has brought to you,

(فَإِنَّمَا عَلَيْهِ مَا حُمِّلَ)

(he is only responsible for the duty placed on him), conveying the Message and fulfilling the trust.

(وَعَلَيْكُمْ مَا حُمِّلْتُمْ)

(and you for that placed on you.) accepting that, and venerating it and doing as it commanded.

(وَإِنْ تُطِيعُوهُ تَهْتَدُوا)

(If you obey him, you shall be on the right guidance.) because he calls to the straight path,

(صِرَاطِ اللَّهِ الَّذِي لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ)

(The path of Allah to Whom belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth. ...))42:53(

(وَمَا عَلَى الرَّسُولِ إِلَّا الْبَلْغُ الْمُبِينُ)

(The Messenger's duty is only to convey in a clear way.) This is like the Ayat:

(فَإِنَّمَا عَلَيْكَ الْبَلْغُ وَعَلَيْنَا الْحِسَابُ)

(your duty is only to convey and on Us is the reckoning.))13:40(

(فَذَكِّرْ إِنَّمَا أَنْتَ مُذَكِّرٌ - لَسْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ بِمُصَيِّرٍ)

(So remind them -- you are only one who reminds. You are not a dictator over them.))88:21-22(

(وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَيَسْتَخْلِفَنَّهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ كَمَا اسْتَخْلَفَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ وَلَيُمَكِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ دِينَهُمُ الَّذِي ارْتَضَى لَهُمْ وَلَيُبَدِّلَنَّهُمْ مِنْ بَعْدِ خَوْفِهِمْ أَمْنًا يَعْبُدُونَنِي لَا يُشْرِكُونَ بِي شَيْئًا وَمَنْ كَفَرَ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ)

(55. Allah has promised those among you who believe and do righteous good deeds, that He will certainly grant them succession in the land, as He granted it to those before them, and that He will grant them the authority to practise their religion which He has chosen for them. And He

will surely give them in exchange a safe security after their fear if they worship Him and do not associate anything with Me. But whoever disbelieved after this, they are the rebellious.)

Allah's Promise to the Believers that He would grant them Succession

This is a promise from Allah to His Messenger that He would cause his Ummah to become successors on earth, i.e., they would become the leaders and rulers of mankind, through whom He would reform the world and to whom people would submit, so that they would have in exchange a safe security after their fear. This is what Allah did indeed do, may He be glorified and exalted, and to Him be praise and blessings. For He did not cause His Messenger to die until He had given him victory over Makkah, Khaybar, Bahrayn, all of the Arabian Peninsula and Yemen; and he took Jizyah from the Zoroastrians of Hajar and from some of the border lands of Syria; and he exchanged gifts with Heraclius the ruler of Byzantium, the ruler of Egypt and Alexandria, the Muqawqis, the kings of Oman and An-Najashi of Abyssinia, who had become king after Ashamah, may Allah have mercy on him and grant him honor. Then when the Messenger died, his successor (Khalifah) Abu Bakr As-Sddiq took over the reins of power and united the Ummah, preventing its disintegration. He took control of the entire Arabian Peninsula, and he sent the Islamic armies to the land of Persia, under the leadership of Khalid bin Al-Walid, may Allah be pleased with him, who conquered a part of it and killed some of its people. He sent another army under the leadership of Abu `Ubaydah, may Allah be pleased with him, and the other commanders who came after him in the lands of Syria. He sent a third army under the leadership of `Amr bin Al-`As, may Allah be pleased with him, to Egypt. Allah enabled the army sent to Syria to conquer Busra and Damascus and their provinces the land of Hawran and its environs. Then Allah chose for Abu Bakr to honor him with Him and he died. The people of Islam were blessed that As-Sddiq was inspired to appoint `Umar Al-Faruq as his successor, so he took the reins of power after him and did a perfect job. After the Prophets, the world never saw anyone like `Umar in excellence of conduct and perfect justice. During his time, the rest of Syria and Egypt, and most of Persia, was conquered. Kisra was defeated and utterly humiliated, and he retreated to the furthest point of his kingdom. Mighty Caesar was brought low, his rule over Syria was overthrown, and he retreated to Constantinople. Their wealth was spent for the sake of Allah, as the Messenger of Allah had foretold and promised. May Allah's perfect peace and purest blessing be upon him. During the rule of `Uthman, the Islamic domains spread to the furthest points of the earth, east and west. The lands of the west were conquered as far as Cyprus and Andalusia, Kairouan and Sebta which adjoins the Atlantic Ocean. Towards the east, the conquests extended as far as China. Kisra was killed, his kingdom was utterly destroyed and the cities of Iraq, Khurasan and Al-Ahwaz were conquered. The Muslims killed a great number of Turks and Allah humiliated their great king Khaqan. Taxes were collected from the east and the west, and brought to the Commander of the faithful `Uthman bin `Affan, may Allah be pleased with him. This was a blessing brought by his recitation and study of the Qur'an, and his bringing the Ummah together to preserve and protect it. In the Sahih it was recorded that the Messenger of Allah said:

«إِنَّ اللَّهَ زَوَى لِيَ الْأَرْضَ فَرَأَيْتُ مَشَارِقَهَا وَمَغَارِبَهَا، وَسَيَبْلُغُ مُلْكُ أُمَّتِي مَا زُوِيَ لِي مِنْهَا»

(Allah showed me the earth and I looked at the east and the west. The dominion of my Ummah will reach everywhere I was shown.) And now we are enjoying that which Allah and His Messenger promised us, for Allah and His Messenger spoke the truth. We ask Allah to give us

faith in Him and His Messenger, and to help us to give thanks to Him in a manner that will earn us His pleasure.

(وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ
لَيَسْتَخْلِفَنَّهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ كَمَا اسْتَخْلَفَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ
قَبْلِهِمْ وَلَيُمَكِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ دِينَهُمُ الَّذِي ارْتَضَى لَهُمْ
وَلَيُبَدِّلَنَّهُمْ مِّنْ بَعْدِ خَوْفِهِمْ أَمْنًا)

(Allah has promised those among you who believe and do righteous good deeds, that He will certainly grant them succession in the land, as He granted it to those before them, and that He will grant them the authority to practise their religion which He has chosen for them. And He will surely, give them in exchange a safe security after their fear...) Ar-Rabi` bin Anas narrated that Abu Al-`Aliyah said, "The Prophet and his Companions were in Makkah for nearly ten years, calling people in secret to worship Allah Alone with no partner or associate. They were in a state of fear and were not instructed to fight until after they were commanded to migrate to Al-Madinah. When they came to Al-Madinah, then Allah instructed them to fight. In Al-Madinah they were afraid and they carried their weapons morning and evening. This is how they remained for as long as Allah willed..." Then Allah revealed this Ayah. He caused His Prophet to prevail over the Arabian Peninsula, and then they felt safe and put down their weapons. Then Allah took His Prophet and they remained safe throughout the time of Abu Bakr, `Umar and `Uthman, until what happened happened, and fear again prevailed over them, so they instituted a police force and guards. They changed, so their situation changed. One of the Salaf said, "The Khilafah of Abu Bakr and `Umar was true and adhered to the Book of Allah. Then he recited this Ayah." Al-Bara' bin `Azib said, "This Ayah was revealed when we were in a state of extreme fear." This Ayah is like the Ayah:

(وَاذْكُرُوا إِذْ أَنْتُمْ قَلِيلٌ مُّسْتَضْعَفُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ)

(And remember when you were few and were reckoned weak in the land) Until His statement:

(لَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ)

(so that you might be grateful))8:26(.

(كَمَا اسْتَخْلَفَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ)

(as He granted succession to those before them,) This is like the Ayah where Allah tells us that Musa said to his people:

(عَسَى رَبُّكُمْ أَنْ يُهْلِكَ عَدُوَّكُمْ وَيَسْتَخْلِفَكُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ)

("It may be that your Lord will destroy your enemy and make you successors on the earth...")
(7:129) (And Allah says:

(وَنُرِيدُ أَنْ نَمُنَّ عَلَى الَّذِينَ اسْتُضْعِفُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ)

(And We wished to do a favor to those who were weak in the land,) until the two Ayat there after.)28: 5-6(

(وَلَيُمَكِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ دِينَهُمُ الَّذِي ارْتَضَى لَهُمْ)

(and that He will grant them the authority to practise their religion which He has chosen for them...) vAs the Messenger of Allah said to `Adiyy bin Hatim when he came to him in a delegation:

«أَتَعْرِفُ الْحِيرَةَ؟»

(Do you know Al-Hirah) He said, "I do not know it, but I have heard of it." The Messenger of Allah said:

«قَوِّلْ لِقَوْمِي بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ لِيُتِمَّنَ اللَّهُ هَذَا الْأَمْرَ حَتَّى تَخْرُجَ الطَّعِينَةُ مِنَ الْحِيرَةِ حَتَّى تَطُوفَ بِالْبَيْتِ فِي غَيْرِ جَوَارٍ أَحَدٍ، وَلَتَقْتَحُنَّ كُنُوزَ كِسْرَى بْنِ هُرْمُزٍ»

(By the One in Whose Hand is my soul, Allah will make this matter)i.e., Islam(prevail until a woman riding a camel will come from Al-Hirah and perform Tawaf around the House without needing the protection of anybody, and the treasures of Kisra the son of Hurmuz will be opened.) He said, "Kisra the son of Hurmuz" He said,

«نَعَمْ، كِسْرَى بْنُ هُرْمُزَ، وَلَيُبْدَلَنَّ الْمَالُ حَتَّى لَا يَقْبَلَهُ أَحَدٌ»

(Yes, Kisra the son of Hurmuz, and wealth will be given until there will be no one who will accept it.) `Adiyy bin Hatim said: "Now it is happening that a woman riding a camel comes from Al-Hirah and performs Tawaf around the House without needing the protection of anybody, and I was among those who opened the treasure of Kisra the son of Hurmuz. By the One in Whose Hand is my soul, the third thing will also come to pass, because the Messenger of Allah said it."

(يَعْبُدُونَنِي لَا يُشْرِكُونَ بِي شَيْئًا)

(if they worship Me and do not associate anything with Me.) Imam Ahmad recorded from Anas that Mu`adh bin Jabal told him, "While I was riding behind the Prophet on a donkey, with nothing between me and him but the back of his saddle, he said,

«يَا مُعَاذُ بْنُ جَبَلٍ»

(O Mu`adh bin Jabal.) I said, `Here I am at your service, O Messenger of Allah.' Then a while passed, then he said,

«يَا مُعَاذُ بْنُ جَبَلٍ»

(O Mu`adh bin Jabal.) I said, `Here I am at your service, O Messenger of Allah.' Then a while passed, then he said,

«يَا مُعَاذُ بْنُ جَبَلٍ»

(O Mu`adh bin Jabal.) I said, `Here I am at your service, O Messenger of Allah.' He said,

«هَلْ تَدْرِي مَا حَقُّ اللَّهِ عَلَى الْعِبَادِ؟»

(Do you know the rights that Allah has over His servants) I said, `Allah and His Messenger know best.' He said,

«فَإِنَّ حَقَّ اللَّهِ عَلَى الْعِبَادِ أَنْ يَعْبُدُوهُ وَلَا يُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا»

(The rights that Allah has over His servants are that they should worship Him and not associate anything with Him.) Then a while passed, then he said,

«يَا مُعَاذُ بْنُ جَبَلٍ»

(O Mu` adh bin Jabal.) I said, `Here I am at your service, O Messenger of Allah.' He said,

«فَهَلْ تَدْرِي مَا حَقُّ الْعِبَادِ عَلَى اللَّهِ إِذَا فَعَلُوا
ذَلِكَ؟»

(Do you know the rights that people have over Allah if they do that) I said, `Allah and His Messenger know best.' He said,

«فَإِنَّ حَقَّ الْعِبَادِ عَلَى اللَّهِ أَنْ لَا يُعَذِّبَهُمْ»

(The rights that people have over Allah is that He will not punish them.)" This was also recorded in the Two Sahihs.

(وَمَنْ كَفَرَ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ)

(But whoever disbelieved after this, they are the rebellious.) means, `whoever then stops obeying Me after that, has stopped obeying the command of his Lord, and that is a great sin.' The Companions -- may Allah be pleased with them -- were the most committed of people after the Prophet to the commands of Allah and the most obedient to Allah. Their victories were in accordance with their level of commitment. They caused the Word of Allah to prevail in the east and the west, and Allah supported them so much that they governed all the people and all the lands. When the people subsequently fell short in their commitment to some of the commandments, their strength and victory fell short accordingly, but it is confirmed through more than one route in the Two Sahihs that the Messenger of Allah said:

«لَا تَزَالُ طَائِفَةٌ مِنْ أُمَّتِي ظَاهِرِينَ عَلَى الْحَقِّ،
لَا يَضُرُّهُمْ مَنْ خَذَلَهُمْ وَلَا مَنْ خَالَفَهُمْ إِلَى يَوْمِ
الْقِيَامَةِ»

(There will remain a group of my Ummah adhering to the truth, and those who forsake them or oppose them will not harm them until the Day of Resurrection.) According to another report:

«حَتَّى يَأْتِيَ أَمْرُ اللَّهِ وَهُمْ كَذَلِكَ»

(.. until the command of Allah comes to pass and they are like that.) According to another report:

«حَتَّى يُقَاتِلُوا الدَّجَالَ»

(... until they fight the Dajjal.) According to another report:

«حَتَّى يَنْزِلَ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ وَهُمْ ظَاهِرُونَ»

(... until `Isa bin Maryam comes down and they are prevailing.) All of these reports are Sahih, and there is no contradiction between them.

(وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَأَطِيعُوا
الرَّسُولَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ - لَا تَحْسَبَنَّ الَّذِينَ
كَفَرُوا مُعْجِزِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَأْوَاهُمُ النَّارُ
وَلَيْسَ الْمَصِيرُ)

(56. And perform the Salah, and give the Zakah and obey the Messenger that you may receive mercy.) (57. Consider not that the disbelievers can escape in the land. Their abode shall be the Fire -- and worst indeed is that destination.)

The Command to pray, give the Zakah and obey the Messenger ; the inability of the Disbelievers to escape, and the ultimate Destiny

Allah commands His believing servants to establish prayer, which means worshipping Allah Alone with no partner or associate; to pay the Zakah, which is an act of kindness towards His poor and weak creatures; and by doing so to obey the Messenger of Allah , i.e., to do as he commands them and to avoid what he forbids them, so that Allah will have mercy on them for that. No doubt, whoever does that, Allah will have mercy on him, as Allah says in another Ayah:

(أُولَئِكَ سَيَرْحَمُهُمُ اللَّهُ)

(Allah will have His mercy on them) 9:71(

(لَا تَحْسَبَنَّ)

(Consider not) means, `do not think, O Muhammad,' that:

(الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا)

(the disbelievers) meaning, those who opposed and denied you,

(مُعْجِزِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ)

(can escape in the land.) means, that they can flee from Allah. No, Allah is able to deal with them and He will punish them most severely for that. Allah says:

(وَمَا أَوَاهُمْ)

(Their abode) meaning, in the Hereafter,

(النَّارُ وَلَيْسَ الْمَصِيرُ)

(shall be the Fire -- and worst indeed is that destination.) means, how terrible the consequences will be for the disbelievers, how evil a place to stay in and how awful a place to rest!

(يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لِيَسْتَأْذِنَكُمْ الَّذِينَ مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ لَمْ يَبْلُغُوا الْحُلُمَ مِنْكُمْ ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ مِّن قَبْلِ صَلَاةِ الْفَجْرِ وَحِينَ تَضَعُونَ ثِيَابَكُمْ مِّنَ الظَّهْرِ وَمِن بَعْدِ صَلَاةِ الْعِشَاءِ ثَلَاثُ عَوْرَاتٍ لَّكُمْ لَيْسَ عَلَيْكُمْ وَلَا عَلَيْهِمْ جُنَاحٌ بَعْدَ هُنَّ طُوفُونَ عَلَيْكُمْ بَعْضُكُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ كَذَلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ الْآيَاتِ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ - وَإِذَا بَلَغَ الْأَطْفَالُ مِنْكُمُ الْحُلُمَ فَلْيَسْتَأْذِنُوا كَمَا اسْتَأْذَنَ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ كَذَلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ ءَايَاتِهِ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ - وَالْقَوَاعِدُ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ اللَّتِي لَا يَرْجُونَ نِكَاحًا

فَلَيْسَ عَلَيْهِمْ جُنَاحٌ أَنْ يَضَعْنَ ثِيَابَهُنَّ غَيْرَ مُتَبَرِّجَاتٍ بِزِينَةٍ وَأَنْ يَسْتَغْفِنَ خَيْرٌ لَّهُنَّ وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ (

(58. O you who believe! Let your slaves and slave-girls, and those among you who have not come to the age of puberty ask your permission on three occasions: before the Fajr prayer, and while you put off your clothes during the afternoon, and after the `Isha' prayer. (These) three (times) are of privacy for you; other than these times there is no sin on you or on them to move about, attending to each other. Thus Allah makes clear the Ayat to you. And Allah is All-Knowing, All-Wise.) (59. And when the children among you come to puberty, then let them (also) ask for permission, as those senior to them (in age) ask permission. Thus Allah makes clear His Ayat for you. And Allah is All-Knowing, All-Wise.) (60. And the Qawa'id among women who do not hope for marriage, it is no sin on them if they discard their (outer) clothing in such a way as not to show their adornment. But to refrain is better for them. And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower.)

The Times when Servants and Young Children should seek Permission to enter

These Ayat include a discussion of how people who are closely related should seek permission to enter upon one another. What was mentioned earlier in the Surah had to do with how unrelated people should seek permission to enter upon one another. Allah commanded the believers to ensure that their servants and their children who have not yet reached puberty should seek permission at three times: the first is before the Fajr prayer, because people are asleep in their beds at that time.

(وَحِينَ تَضَعُونَ ثِيَابَكُمْ مِّنَ الظَّهْرِ)

(and while you put off your clothes during the afternoon,) means, at the time of rest, because a man may be in a state of undress with his wife at that time.

(وَمِن بَعْدِ صَلَوةِ الْعِشَاءِ)

(and after the `Isha' prayer.) because this is the time for sleep. Servants and children are commanded not to enter upon household members at these times, because it is feared that a man may be in an intimate situation with his wife and so on. Allah says:

(ثَلَاثُ عَوْرَاتٍ لَّكُمْ لَيْسَ عَلَيْكُمْ وَلَا عَلَيْهِمْ جُنَاحٌ بَعْدَهُنَّ)

((These) three (times) are of privacy for you; other than these times there is no sin on you or on them) If they enter at a time other than these, there is no sin on you if you let them enter, and no sin on them if they see something at a time other than these times. They have been given permission to enter suddenly, because they are those who go around in the house, i.e., to serve you etc., and as such they may be forgiven for things that others will not be forgiven. Although this Ayah is quite clear and has not been abrogated, people hardly follow it, and `Abdullah bin `Abbas denounced the people for that. Abu Dawud recorded that Ibn `Abbas said: "Most of the people do not follow it, the Ayah that speaks about asking permission, but I tell my servant woman to seek permission to enter." Abu Dawud said: `Ata' also narrated that Ibn `Abbas commanded this. Ath-Thawri narrated that Musa bin Abi `A'ishah said, "I asked Ash Sha`bi about the Ayah(:

(لَيْسَتْ أَذْنُكُمْ الَّذِينَ مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ)

(Let your slaves and slave-girls ask your permission.) He said, `It has not been abrogated.' I said: `But the people do not do that.' He said, `May Allah help them.'" Then Allah says:

(وَإِذَا بَلَغَ الْأَطْفَالُ مِنْكُمُ الْحُلُمَ فَلْيَسْتَأْذِنُوا كَمَا اسْتَأْذَنَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ)

(And when the children among you come to puberty, then let them (also) ask for permission, as those senior to them (in age)) meaning: when the children who used to seek permission at the three times of privacy reach puberty, then they have to seek permission at all times, i.e., with regard to those who are non-relatives, and at times when a man may be in a state of intimacy with his wife, even if it is not one of the three times stated above.

There is no Sin on Elderly Women if They do not wear a Cloak

(وَالْقَوَاعِدُ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ)

(And the Qawa'id among women.) Sa'id bin Jubayr, Muqatil bin Hayyan, Ad-Dahhak and Qatadah said that these are the women who no longer think that they can bear children,

(الَّتِي لَا يَرْجُونَ نِكَاحًا)

(who do not hope for marriage,) meaning, they no longer have any desire for marriage,

(فَلَيْسَ عَلَيْهِنَّ جُنَاحٌ أَنْ يَضَعْنَ ثِيَابَهُنَّ غَيْرَ مُتَبَرِّجَاتٍ بِزِينَةٍ)

(it is no sin on them if they discard their (outer) clothing in such a way as not to show their adornment.) meaning, they do not have to cover themselves in the same way that other women have to. Abu Dawud recorded that Ibn `Abbas said that the Ayah:

(وَقُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنَاتِ يَعْضُضْنَ مِنْ أَبْصَرِهِنَّ)

(And tell the believing women to lower their gaze) 24:31(was abrogated and an exception was made in the case of:

(وَالْقَوَاعِدُ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ اللَّاتِي لَا يَرْجُونَ نِكَاحًا)

(the past childbearing among women who do not hope for marriage, .)

(فَلَيْسَ عَلَيْهِنَّ جُنَاحٌ أَنْ يَضَعْنَ ثِيَابَهُنَّ)

(it is no sin on them if they discard their (outer) clothing) Ibn Mas`ud said about (outer) clothing,, "The Jilbab or Rida'." A similar view was also narrated from Ibn `Abbas, Ibn `Umar, Mujahid, Sa`id bin Jubayr, Abu Ash-Sha`tha', Ibrahim An-Nakha'i, Al-Hasan, Qatadah, Az-Zuhri, Al-`Awza'i and others.

(غَيْرَ مُتَبَرِّجَاتٍ زِينَةً)

(in such a way as not to show their adornment.) Sa`id bin Jubayr said, "They should not make a wanton display of themselves by removing their outer garment so that their adornment may be seen."

(وَأَنْ يَسْتَعْفِفْنَ خَيْرٌ لَّهُنَّ)

(But to refrain is better for them.) means, not removing their outer garment, even though that is permissible for them, is better for them.

(وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ)

(And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower.)

(لَيْسَ عَلَى الْأَعْمَى حَرَجٌ وَلَا عَلَى الْأَعْرَجِ حَرَجٌ وَلَا عَلَى الْمَرِيضِ حَرَجٌ وَلَا عَلَى أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَنْ تَأْكُلُوا مِنْ بُيُوتِكُمْ أَوْ بُيُوتِ آبَائِكُمْ أَوْ بُيُوتِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ أَوْ بُيُوتِ إِخْوَانِكُمْ أَوْ بُيُوتِ أَخَوَاتِكُمْ أَوْ

بُيُوتِ أَعْمَمِكُمْ أَوْ بُيُوتِ عَمَتِكُمْ أَوْ بُيُوتِ
أَخْوَالِكُمْ أَوْ بُيُوتِ خَالَاتِكُمْ أَوْ مَا مَلَكَتُمْ مَفَاتِحَهُ أَوْ
صَدِيقِكُمْ لَيْسَ عَلَيْكُمْ جُنَاحٌ أَنْ تَأْكُلُوا جَمِيعاً أَوْ
أَشْتَاتاً فَإِذَا دَخَلْتُمْ بُيُوتاً فَسَلِّمُوا عَلَى أَنْفُسِكُمْ تَحِيَّةً
مِّنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ مُبَرَكَةٌ طَيِّبَةٌ كَذَلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ
الْآيَةَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ)

(61. There is no restriction on the blind, nor any restriction on the lame, nor any restriction on the sick, nor on yourselves, if you eat from your houses, or the houses of your fathers, or the houses of your mothers, or the houses of your brothers, or the houses of your sisters, or the houses of your father's brothers, or the houses of your father's sisters, or the houses of your mother's brothers, or the houses of your mother's sisters, or (from that) whereof you hold keys, or (from the house) of a friend. No sin on you whether you eat together or apart. But when you enter the houses, greet one another with a greeting from Allah, blessed and good. Thus Allah makes clear the Ayat to you that you may understand.) I

Eating from One's Relatives' Houses

What is referred to here is the fact that they used to feel too embarrassed to eat with the blind, because they could not see the food or where the best morsels were, so others might take the best pieces before they could. They felt too embarrassed to eat with the lame because they could not sit comfortably, and their companions might take advantage of them, and they felt embarrassed to eat with the sick because they might not eat as much as others. So they were afraid to eat with them lest they were unfair to them in some way. Then Allah revealed this Ayah, granting them a dispensation in this matter. This was the view of Sa`id bin Jubayr and Miqsam. Ad-Dahhak said: "Before the Prophet's Mission, they used to feel too embarrassed and too proud to eat with these people, lest they might have to help them. So Allah revealed this Ayah."

(لَيْسَ عَلَى الْأَعْمَى حَرَجٌ)

(nor any restriction on the lame,) `Abdur-Razzaq recorded that Mujahid said: "A man would take a blind, lame or sick person to the house of his brother or sister or aunt, and those disabled people would feel ashamed of that and say, 'they are taking us to other people's houses.' So this Ayah was revealed granting permission for that." As-Suddi said: "A man would enter the house of his father or brother or son, and the lady of the house would bring him some food, but he would refrain from eating because the master of the house was not there, so Allah revealed:

(لَيْسَ عَلَى الْأَعْمَى حَرَجٌ)

(There is no restriction on the blind. ...)

(وَلَا عَلَى أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَنْ تَأْكُلُوا مِنْ بُيُوتِكُمْ)

(nor on yourselves, if you eat from your houses,) This is stated here although it is obvious, so that from this starting point the houses of others may be mentioned, and to make it clear that the ruling applies equally to what comes after. Sons' houses are included in this even though they are not mentioned by name, and this is used as evidence by those who regard the son's wealth as being like the father's wealth. In the Musnad and the Sunan, it is reported through several routes that the Messenger of Allah said:

«أَنْتَ وَمَالُكَ لِأَبِيكَ»

(You and your wealth belong to your father.)

(أَوْ بُيُوتِ آبَائِكُمْ أَوْ بُيُوتِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ)

(or the houses of your fathers, or the houses of your mothers,) until His statement;

(أَوْ مَا مَلَكَتُمْ مَفَاتِحَهُ)

(or (from that) whereof you hold keys,) This is obvious, and this is used as evidence by those who think that it is obligatory for relatives to spend on one another.

(أَوْ مَا مَلَكَتُمْ مَفَاتِحَهُ)

(or (from that) whereof you hold keys,) Sa`id bin Jubayr and As-Suddi said, "This refers to a people's servants, whether a slave or otherwise. There is nothing wrong with them eating from the food that is stored with them, within reason." Az-Zuhri narrated from `Urwah that `Aisha, may Allah be pleased with her, said, "The Muslims used to go out on military campaigns with the Messenger of Allah and they would give their keys to people they trusted and say, 'We permit you to eat whatever you need.' But they would say, 'It is not permissible for us to eat, they have given us permission reluctantly and we are only trustees.' Then Allah revealed:

(أَوْ مَا مَلَكَتُمْ مَفَاتِحَهُ)

(or (from that) whereof you hold keys)."

(أَوْ صَدِيقِكُمْ)

(or (from the house) of a friend.) means, there is no sin on you if you eat from their houses, so long as you know that this does not upset them and they do not dislike it.

(لَيْسَ عَلَيْكُمْ جُنَاحٌ أَنْ تَأْكُلُوا جَمِيعاً أَوْ أَشْتَاتاً)

(No sin on you whether you eat together or apart.) `Ali bin Abi Talhah reported from Ibn `Abbas concerning this Ayah, "When Allah revealed the Ayah:

(يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالَكُمْ بَيْنَكُمْ بِالْبَاطِلِ)

(O you who believe! Eat not up your property among yourselves unjustly) 4: 29(, the Muslims said, `Allah has forbidden us to eat up our property among ourselves unjustly, and food is the best of property, so it is not permissible for anyone among us to eat at the house of anyone else.' So the people stopped doing that. Then Allah revealed:

(لَيْسَ عَلَى الْأَعْمَى حَرَجٌ)

(There is no restriction on the blind,) until His statement;

(أَوْ صَدِيقَكُمْ)

(or (from the house) of a friend.) A man would also feel embarrassed and would refrain from eating alone until someone else came along, but Allah made the matter easier for them and said:

(لَيْسَ عَلَيْكُمْ جُنَاحٌ أَنْ تَأْكُلُوا جَمِيعاً أَوْ أَشْتَاتاً)

(No sin on you whether you eat together or apart.)" Qatadah said, "This was a clan of Banu Kinanah who during the Jahiliyyah thought that it was a source of shame for one of them to eat alone, to such an extent that a man might keep on driving his laden camel even though he was hungry, until he could find someone to eat and drink with him. Then Allah revealed:

(لَيْسَ عَلَيْكُمْ جُنَاحٌ أَنْ تَأْكُلُوا جَمِيعاً أَوْ أَشْتَاتاً)

(No sin on you whether you eat together or apart.) So this was a dispensation from Allah, allowing people to eat either alone or with others, even though eating with others is more blessed and is better. Imam Ahmad recorded from Wahshi bin Harb from his father from his grandfather that a man said to the Prophet , "We eat but we do not feel satisfied." He said:

«لَعَلَّكُمْ تَأْكُلُونَ مُتَفَرِّقِينَ، اجْتَمِعُوا عَلَى طَعَامِكُمْ، وَادْكُرُوا اسْمَ اللَّهِ، يُبَارِكْ لَكُمْ فِيهِ»

(Perhaps you are eating separately. Eat together and mention the Name of Allah, and He will bless the food for you.) It was also recorded by Abu Dawud and Ibn Majah. Ibn Majah also recorded that Salim reported from his father from `Umar, may Allah be pleased with him, that the Messenger of Allah said:

«كُلُّوا جَمِيعًا، وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا، فَإِنَّ الْبَرَكَهَ مَعَ الْجَمَاعَةِ»

(Eat together and not separately, for the blessing is in being together.)

(فَإِذَا دَخَلْتُمْ بُيُوتًا فَسَلِّمُوا عَلَى أَنْفُسِكُمْ)

(But when you enter the houses, greet one another) Sa'id bin Jubayr, Al-Hasan Al-Basri, Qatadah and Az-Zuhri said, "This means greet one another with Salam." Ibn Jurayj said: Abu Az-Zubayr said, "I heard Jabir bin `Abdullah say, `When you enter upon your family, greet them with a greeting from Allah, blessed and good.' He said, `I do not think it is anything but obligatory.'" Ibn Jurayj said: "And Ziyad said that Ibn Tawus used to say: `When any one of you enters his house, let him say Salam.'" Mujahid said: "And when you enter the Masjid, say: `Peace be upon the Messenger of Allah'; when you enter upon your families, greet them with Salam; and when you enter a house in which there is nobody, say: `As-Salamu `Alayna wa `Ala `Ibad-Allah-is-Salihin (peace be upon us and upon the righteous servants of Allah).' This is what one is commanded to do, and it has been narrated to us that the angels will return his greeting."

(كَذَلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ الْآيَاتِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ)

(Thus Allah makes clear the Ayat to you that you may understand.) When Allah mentioned what wise rulings and reasonable, well-constructed laws are contained in this Surah, He points out to His servants that He explains the Ayat to them clearly so that they may ponder them and understand their meanings.

(إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَإِذَا كَانُوا مَعَهُ عَلَى أَمْرٍ جَامِعٍ لَمْ يَذْهَبُوا حَتَّى يَسْتَأْذِنُوهُ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَسْتَأْذِنُونَكَ أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ فَإِذَا اسْتَأْذَنُوكَ لِبَعْضِ شَأْنِهِمْ فَأَذَنْ لِمَنْ شِئْتَ مِنْهُمْ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُمُ اللَّهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ)

(62. The believers are only those who believe in Allah and His Messenger; and when they are with him on some common matter, they go not away until they have asked his permission. Verily, those who ask your permission, those are they who (really) believe in Allah and His Messenger. So if they ask your permission for some affairs of theirs, give permission to whom you will of them, and ask Allah for their forgiveness. Truly, Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.)

Asking Permission to leave when They are doing something together

This is another matter of etiquette to which Allah has guided His believing servants. Just as He commanded them to seek permission when entering, He also commanded them to seek permission when leaving, especially when they are doing something together with the Messenger, such as the Friday, 'Id, or congregational prayers, or a meeting for the purpose of consultation and so on. Allah commanded them not to leave him in these situations until they had asked his permission. If they did this, then they were of the true believers. Then Allah commanded His Messenger to give permission when someone asked for it, if he wanted to. He said:

(فَأَذِنَ لِمَن شِئْتَ مِنْهُمْ وَاسْتَغْفِرَ لَهُمُ اللَّهُ)

(give permission to whom you will of them, and ask Allah for their forgiveness.) Abu Dawud reported that Abu Hurayrah said, "The Messenger of Allah said:

«إِذَا انْتَهَى أَحَدُكُمْ إِلَى الْمَجْلِسِ فَلْيُسَلِّمْ، فَإِذَا أَرَادَ أَنْ يَقُومَ فَلْيُسَلِّمْ، فَلَيْسَتْ الْأُولَى بِأَحَقَّ مِنَ الْآخِرَةِ»

(When any of you joins a gathering, let him say Salam, and when he wants to leave, let him say Salam. The former is not more important than the latter.) This was also recorded by At-Tirmidhi and An-Nasa'i; At-Tirmidhi said: "It is a Hasan Hadith."

(لَا تَجْعَلُوا دُعَاءَ الرَّسُولِ بَيْنَكُمْ كَدُعَاءِ بَعْضِكُمْ بَعْضًا قَدْ يَعْلَمُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ يَتَسَلَّلُونَ مِنْكُمْ لِوَاذًا فَلْيَحْذَرِ الَّذِينَ يُخَلِفُونَ عَنْ أَمْرِهِ أَنْ تُصِيبَهُمْ فِتْنَةٌ أَوْ يُصِيبَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ)

(63. Make not the calling of the Messenger among you as your calling one of another. Allah knows those of you who slip away under shelter. And let those beware who oppose the Messenger's commandment, lest some Fitnah should befall them or a painful torment be inflicted on them.)

The Etiquette of addressing the Prophet

Ad-Dahhak said, reporting from Ibn `Abbas: "They used to say, `O Muhammad,' or `O Abu Al-Qasim,' but Allah forbade them to do that, as a sign of respect towards His Prophet, and told them to say, `O Prophet of Allah,' `O Messenger of Allah.'" This was also the view of Mujahid and Sa'id bin Jubayr. Qatadah said: "Allah commanded that His Prophet should be treated with respect and honor, and that he should be a leader." Muqatil said concerning the Ayah:

(لَا تَجْعَلُوا دُعَاءَ الرَّسُولِ بَيْنَكُمْ كَدُعَاءِ بَعْضِكُمْ بَعْضًا)

(Make not the calling of the Messenger among you as your calling one of another.) "When you address him, do not say, `O Muhammad,' or `O son of `Abdullah'; rather honor him and say, `O Prophet of Allah,' or, `O Messenger of Allah.'

(لَا تَجْعَلُوا دُعَاءَ الرَّسُولِ بَيْنَكُمْ كَدُعَاءِ بَعْضِكُمْ بَعْضًا)

(Make not the calling of the Messenger among you as your calling one of another.) A second view concerning the meaning of the Ayah is that it means `do not think that if he prays against you it is like when anyone else prays against you, because his prayers will be answered; so beware lest he prays against you and you will be doomed.' Ibn Abi Hatim recorded this from Ibn `Abbas, Al-Hasan Al-Basri and `Atiyyah Al-`Awfi. And Allah knows best.

(قَدْ يَعْلَمُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ يَتَسَلَّلُونَ مِنْكُمْ لِوَاذًا)

(Allah knows those of you who slip away under shelter.) Muqatil bin Hayyan said, "This refers to the hypocrites who used to find it too difficult to listen to the Khutbah on Fridays, so they would hide behind some of the Companions of Muhammad and sneak out of the Masjid. It was not proper for a man to leave on Fridays once the Khutbah began, unless he had permission from the Prophet. If one of them wanted to leave, he would make a gesture to the Prophet with his finger, and the Prophet would give permission without the man speaking. This is because if the Prophet was giving the Khutbah and a man spoke, it would invalidate his Friday prayer." As-Suddi said, "If they were with him for a congregational prayer, they would hide behind one another so that he could not see them."

The Prohibition of going against the Messenger's Commandment

(فَلْيَحْذَرِ الَّذِينَ يُخْلِفُونَ عَنْ أَمْرِهِ)

(And let those beware who oppose the Messenger's commandment) This means going against the commandment of the Prophet , which is his way, methodology and Sunnah. All words and deeds will be measured against his words and deeds; those that are in accordance with his words and deeds will be accepted, and whatever does not match up will be rejected, no matter who the person is who said and did them. It was recorded in the Two Sahihs and elsewhere that the Messenger of Allah said:

«مَنْ عَمِلَ عَمَلًا لَيْسَ عَلَيْهِ أَمْرُنَا فَهُوَ رَدٌّ»

(Whoever does a deed that is not in accordance with this matter of ours will have it rejected.) meaning, let those beware who go against the Shari` ah of the Messenger , in secret and in the open,

(أَنْ تُصِيبَهُمْ فِتْنَةٌ)

(lest some Fitnah should befall them), i.e., lest some disbelief or hypocrisy or innovation enter their hearts.

(أَوْ يُصِيبَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ)

(or a painful torment be inflicted on them.) means in this world afflicting them with capital punishment, or by law of prescribed punishment, or by confinement in prison, or so on. Imam Ahmad recorded that Abu Hurayrah said, "The Messenger of Allah said:

«مَثَلِي وَمَثَلُكُمْ كَمَثَلِ رَجُلٍ اسْتَوْقَدَ نَارًا فَلَمَّا أَضَاءَتْ مَا حَوْلَهَا جَعَلَ الْفَرَاشُ وَهَذِهِ الدَّوَابُّ اللَّائِي يَقَعْنَ فِي النَّارِ يَقَعْنَ فِيهَا، وَجَعَلَ يَحْجُزُهُنَّ وَيَغْلِبْنَهُ فَيَقْتَحِمْنَ فِيهَا قَالَ: فَذَلِكَ مَثَلِي وَمَثَلُكُمْ، أَنَا أَخِذٌ بِحُجَزِكُمْ عَنِ النَّارِ هَلُمَّ عَنِ النَّارِ، فَتَغْلِبُونِي وَتَقْتَحِمُونَ فِيهَا»

n(The parable of me and you is as the example of a man who kindled a fire and when it illuminated all around him, moths and other creatures started falling into the fire, and he was trying to stop them but they overwhelmed him and still kept falling in. This is the parable of

me and you. I am trying to restrain you and keep you away from the fire, but you overwhelm me and fall in.) This was also narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim.

(أَلَا إِنَّ لِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ قَدْ يَعْلَمُ مَا أَنْتُمْ عَلَيْهِ وَيَوْمَ يُرْجَعُونَ إِلَيْهِ فَيُنَبِّئُهُمْ بِمَا عَمِلُوا وَاللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ)

(64. Certainly, to Allah belongs all that is in the heavens and the earth. Indeed, He knows your condition and the Day when they will be brought back to Him, then He will inform them of what they did. And Allah is All-Knower of everything.)

Allah knows your Condition

Allah tells us that He is the Sovereign of the heavens and the earth, and He knows the seen and the unseen. He knows what His servants do in secret and in the open. So He says:

(قَدْ يَعْلَمُ مَا أَنْتُمْ عَلَيْهِ)

(Indeed, He knows your condition) He knows and it is visible to Him, and not one iota is hidden from him. This is like the Ayah:

(وَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى الْعَزِيزِ الرَّحِيمِ)

(And put your trust in the All-Mighty, the Most Merciful,) until His saying;

(إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ)

(Verily, He, only He, is the All-Hearer, the All-Knower)26:217-220(

(وَمَا تَكُونُ فِي شَأْنٍ وَمَا تَتْلُوا مِنْهُ مِنْ قُرْءَانٍ وَلَا تَعْمَلُونَ مِنْ عَمَلٍ إِلَّا كُنَّا عَلَيْكُمْ شُهُودًا إِذْ تُفِيضُونَ فِيهِ وَمَا يَعْزُبُ عَنْ رَبِّكَ مِنْ مِثْقَالِ ذَرَّةٍ

فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا فِي السَّمَاءِ وَلَا أَصْغَرَ مِنْ ذَلِكَ
وَلَا أَكْبَرَ إِلَّا فِي كِتَابٍ مُبِينٍ)

(Neither you do any deed nor recite any portion of the Qur'an, nor you do any deed but We are Witness thereof when you are doing it. And nothing is hidden from your Lord; (even) the weight of a speck of dust on the earth or in the heaven. Not what is less than that or what is greater than that but is in a Clear Record.))10:61(

(أَفَمَنْ هُوَ قَائِمٌ عَلَى كُلِّ نَفْسٍ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ)

(Is then He Who takes charge of every person and knows all that he has earned))13: 33(He sees all that His servants do, good and evil alike. And Allah says:

(أَلَا حِينَ يَسْتَعْشُونَ نِيَابَهُمْ يَعْلَمُ مَا يُسِرُّونَ وَمَا يُعْلِنُونَ)

(Surely, even when they cover themselves with their garments, He knows what they conceal and what they reveal))11:5(

(سَوَاءٌ مِنْكُمْ مَنْ أَسَرَ الْقَوْلَ وَمَنْ جَهَرَ بِهِ)

(It is the same (to Him) whether any of you conceals his speech or declares it openly))13:10(

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

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

(وَعِنْدَهُ مَفَاتِحُ الْغَيْبِ لَا يَعْلَمُهَا إِلَّا هُوَ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا
فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ وَمَا تَسْقُطُ مِنْ وَرَقَةٍ إِلَّا يَعْلَمُهَا

وَلَا حَبَّةٌ فِي ظِلْمَتِ الْأَرْضِ وَلَا رَطْبٍ وَلَا
يَاسٍ إِلَّا فِي كِتَابٍ مُبِينٍ)

(And with Him are the keys of the Unseen, none knows them but He. And He knows whatever there is in the land and in the sea; not a leaf falls, but He knows it. There is not a grain in the darkness of the earth nor anything fresh or dry, but is written in a Clear Record.) 6:59(And there are many Ayat and Hadiths which say similar things.

(وَيَوْمَ يُرْجَعُونَ إِلَيْهِ)

(the Day when they will be brought back to Him,) means, the day when all creatures will be brought back to Allah, which is the Day of Resurrection.

(فَيُنَبِّئُهُمْ بِمَا عَمِلُوا)

(then He will inform them of what they did.) means, He will tell them everything they did in this life, major and minor, significant and insignificant. As Allah says:

(يُنَبِّئُ الْإِنْسَانَ يَوْمَئِذٍ بِمَا قَدَّمَ وَأَخَّرَ)

(On that Day man will be informed of what he sent forward (of deeds), and what he left behind.) 75:13(

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

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

(وَيَوْمَ يُرْجَعُونَ إِلَيْهِ فَيُنَبِّئُهُمْ بِمَا عَمِلُوا وَاللَّهُ بِكُلِّ
شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ)

(the Day when they will be brought back to Him, then He will inform them of what they did. And Allah is All-Knower of everything.) Praise be to Allah, the Lord of all that exists, and we ask Him to help us achieve perfection. The end of the Tafsir of Surat An-Nur, to Allah be praise and thanks.

The Tafsir of Surat Al-Furqan

(Chapter - 25)

Which was revealed in Makkah

(بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ)

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

(تَبَارَكَ الَّذِي نَزَّلَ الْفُرْقَانَ عَلَى عَبْدِهِ لِيَكُونَ
لِلْعَالَمِينَ نَذِيرًا - الَّذِي لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَوَاتِ
وَالْأَرْضِ وَلَمْ يَتَّخِذْ وَلَدًا وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ شَرِيكٌ فِي
الْمُلْكِ وَخَلَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ فَقَدَرَهُ تَقْدِيرًا)

(1. Blessed be He Who sent down (Nazzala) the criterion to His servant that he may be a warner to all nations.) (2. He to Whom belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth, and Who has begotten no son and for Whom there is no partner in the dominion. He has created everything, and has measured it exactly according to its due measurements.)

Blessed be Allah

Here Allah praises Himself for the Noble Qur'an He has revealed to His noble Messenger . This is like the Ayat :

(الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ عَلَى عَبْدِهِ الْكِتَابَ وَلَمْ
يَجْعَلْ لَهُ عِوَجًا قَيِّمًا لِيُنْذِرَ بَأْسًا شَدِيدًا مِّنْ لَّدُنْهُ
وَيُبَشِّرَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ الَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ الصَّالِحَاتِ)

(All the praises and thanks be to Allah, Who has sent down to His servant the Book, and has not placed therein any crookedness. (He has made it) straight to give warning of a severe punishment from Him, and to give glad tidings to the believers, who do righteous deeds...))18:1-2(Here Allah says:

(تَبَارَكَ)

(Blessed be He.) The verbal form used here implies an ongoing, permanent, eternal blessing.

(الَّذِي نَزَّلَ الْفُرْقَانَ)

(Who sent down the criterion) The verb Nazzala is a form which implies something done a great deal and often. This is like the Ayah:

(وَالْكِتَابِ الَّذِي نَزَّلَ عَلَى رَسُولِهِ وَالْكِتَابِ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ مِنْ قَبْلُ)

(And the Book which He (Nazzala) sent down to His Messenger, and the Scripture which He (Anzala) sent down to those before (him)) (4:136). Each of the previous Books was sent down at one time, but the Qur'an was revealed gradually, in stages, Ayat after Ayat, rulings after rulings, Surahs after Surahs. This is more eloquent and indicative of greater care for the one to whom it is revealed, as Allah says later in this Surah:

(وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَوْلَا نُزِّلَ عَلَيْهِ الْقُرْآنُ جُمْلَةً وَاحِدَةً كَذَلِكَ لِنُثَبِّتَ بِهِ فُؤَادَكَ وَرَتَّلْنَاهُ تَرْتِيلاً - وَلَا يَأْتُونَكَ بِمَثَلٍ إِلَّا جِئْنَاكَ بِالْحَقِّ وَأَحْسَنَ تَفْسِيرًا)

(And those who disbelieve say: "Why is not the Qur'an revealed to him all at once" Thus, that We may strengthen your heart thereby. And We have revealed it to you gradually, in stages. And no example or similitude do they bring, but We reveal to you the truth, and the better explanation thereof.) (25:32-33) This Surah was named Al-Furqan, because it is the criterion that decides between truth and falsehood, guidance and misguidance, right and wrong, lawful and unlawful.

(عَلَى عَبْدِهِ)

(to His servant) This description is one of praise and commendation, because here Allah is connecting him to Himself, describing him as His servant. Allah also described him in this manner when referring to the noblest of events, the Night of the Isra', as He said:

(سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا)

(Glorified be He Who took His servant for a journey by night) (17:1). Allah also described him in this way when He described how he stood and called to Him:

وَأَنَّهُ لَمَّا قَامَ عَبْدُ اللَّهِ يَدْعُوهُ كَادُوا يَكُونُونَ عَلَيْهِ
لِبَدًا)

(And when the servant of Allah stood up invoking Him in prayer they (the Jinn) just made round him a dense crowd as if sticking one over the other (in order to listen to the Prophet's recitation).) (72:19) This description is also used here when Allah describes how the Book is revealed to him and how the angel comes down to him:

تَبَارَكَ الَّذِي نَزَّلَ الْفُرْقَانَ عَلَى عَبْدِهِ لِيَكُونَ
لِلْعَالَمِينَ نَذِيرًا)

(Blessed be He Who sent down the criterion to His servant that he may be a warner to all nations.)

(لِيَكُونَ لِلْعَالَمِينَ نَذِيرًا)

(that he may be a warner to all nations.) means, he alone has been blessed with this great, detailed, clear Book which,

لَا يَأْتِيهِ الْبَاطِلُ مِنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَلَا مِنْ خَلْفِهِ
تَنْزِيلٌ مِّنْ حَكِيمٍ حَمِيدٍ)

(Falsehood cannot come to it from before it or behind it, (it is) sent down by the All-Wise, Worthy of all praise (Allah).) (41:42) The One Who made it the mighty criterion, singled him out to convey it to those who seek the shade of trees and to those who live on the land (i.e., to all of mankind, nomad and settled alike), as the Prophet said:

«بُعِثْتُ إِلَى الْأَحْمَرِ وَالْأَسْوَدِ»

(I have been sent to the red and the black.) And he said:

«إِنِّي أُعْطِيتُ خَمْسًا لَمْ يُعْطَهُنَّ أَحَدٌ مِنَ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ
قَبْلِي»

(I have been given five things which no Prophet before me was given.) Among them he mentioned:

«كَانَ النَّبِيُّ يُبْعَثُ إِلَى قَوْمِهِ خَاصَّةً وَبُعِثْتُ إِلَى النَّاسِ عَامَّةً»

(I have been given five things which no Prophet before me was given.) Among them he mentioned:
(I have been given five things which no Prophet before me was given, but I have been sent to all of mankind.) And Allah says:

(قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ جَمِيعًا)

(Say: "O mankind! Verily, I am sent to you all as the Messenger of Allah...") (7:158), meaning, the One Who has sent me is the Sovereign of the heaven and the earth, who merely says to a thing "Be!" and it is. He is the one who gives life and causes death. Allah says here:

(الَّذِي لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَلَمْ يَتَّخِذْ وَلَدًا وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ شَرِيكٌ فِي الْمُلْكِ)

(He to Whom belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth, and Who has begotten no son and for Whom there is no partner in the dominion.) Allah states that He is above having any offspring or partner. Then He tells us:

(خَلَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ فَقَدَرَهُ تَقْدِيرًا)

(He has created everything, and has measured it exactly according to its due measurements.) meaning, everything apart from Him is created and subject to Him. He is the Creator, Lord, Master and God of all things, and everything is subject to His dominion, control and power.

(وَاتَّخَذُوا مِنْ دُونِهِ ءَالِهَةً لَا يَخْلُقُونَ شَيْئًا وَهُمْ يُخْلَقُونَ وَلَا يَمْلِكُونَ أَنْفُسِهِمْ ضَرًّا وَلَا نَفْعًا وَلَا يَمْلِكُونَ مَوْتًا وَلَا حَيَوَةً وَلَا نُشُورًا)

(3. Yet they have taken besides Him other gods who created nothing but are themselves created, and possess neither harm nor benefit for themselves, and possess no power (of causing) death, nor (of giving) life, nor of raising the dead.)

The Foolishness of the Idolators

Allah tells us of the ignorance of the idolators in taking other gods instead of Allah, the Creator of all things, the One Who controls the affairs of all things; whatever He wills happens and whatever He does not will does not happen. In spite of that, they still worshipped others besides Him, idols who could not even create the wing of a gnat, but were themselves created. They could neither do harm nor bring benefit to themselves, so how could they do anything for their worshippers

(وَلَا يَمْلِكُونَ مَوْتًا وَلَا حَيَوَةً وَلَا نُشُورًا)

(and possess no power (of causing) death, nor (of giving) life, nor of raising the dead.) means, they could not do any of that at all; that power belongs only to Allah, Who is the One Who gives life and death, and is the One Who will bring all people, the first and the last, back to life on the Day of Resurrection.

(مَا خَلَقَكُمْ وَلَا بَعَثَكُمْ إِلَّا كَنَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ)

(The creation of you all and the resurrection of you all are only as (the creation and resurrection of) a single person) (31:28). This is like the Ayat;

(وَمَا أَمْرُنَا إِلَّا وَاحِدَةٌ كَلَمْحٍ بِالْبَصَرِ)

(And Our commandment is but one as the twinkling of an eye.) (54:50)

(فَإِنَّمَا هِيَ زَجْرَةٌ وَاحِدَةٌ - فَإِذَا هُمْ بِالسَّاهِرَةِ)

(But it will be only a single Zajrah. When behold, they find themselves on the surface of the earth alive after their death.) (79:13-14)

(فَإِنَّمَا هِيَ زَجْرَةٌ وَاحِدَةٌ فَإِذَا هُمْ يَنْظُرُونَ)

(It will be a single Zajrah, and behold, they will be staring!) (37:19)

(إِنْ كَانَتْ إِلَّا صَيْحَةً وَاحِدَةً فَإِذَا هُمْ جَمِيعٌ لَدَيْنَا مُحْضَرُونَ)

(It will be but a single Sayhah, so behold they will all be brought up before Us!) (36:53). He is Allah besides Whom there is no other God and besides Whom there is no other Lord. No one should be worshipped except Him because whatever He wills happens and whatever he does not will does not happen. He has no offspring nor progenitor, nor equal nor likeness nor rival nor peer. He is the One, the Self-Sufficient Master, Whom all creatures need, He begets not, nor was He begotten, and there is none co-equal or comparable unto Him.

(وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِنَّ هَذَا إِلَّا إِفْكٌ افْتَرَاهُ
وَأَعَانَهُ عَلَيْهِ قَوْمٌ ءَاخِرُونَ فَقَدْ جَاءُوا ظُلْمًا
وَزُورًا - وَقَالُوا أُسْطِيرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ اكْتَتَبَهَا فَهِيَ
تُمْلَى عَلَيْهِ بُكْرَةً وَأَصِيلًا - قُلْ أَنْزَلَهُ الَّذِي يَعْلَمُ
السِّرَّ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِنَّهُ كَانَ غَفُورًا
رَحِيمًا)

(4. Those who disbelieve say: "This is nothing but a lie that he has invented, and others have helped him in it." In fact, they have produced an unjust wrong and a lie.) (5. And they say: "Tales of the ancients which he has written down, and they are dictated to him morning and afternoon. ") (6. Say: "It has been sent down by Him Who knows the secret of the heavens and the earth. Truly, He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.")

What the Disbelievers said about the Qur'an

Allah tells us about the foolishness of the disbelievers' ignorant minds, when they said about the Qur'an:

(إِنَّ هَذَا إِلَّا إِفْكٌ)

(This is nothing but a lie), meaning an untruth.

(افْتَرَاهُ)

(that he has invented,) meaning the Prophet .

(وَأَعَانَهُ عَلَيْهِ قَوْمٌ ءَاخِرُونَ)

(and others have helped him in it.) means, he asked other people to help him compile it. So Allah said:

(فَقَدْ جَاءُوا ظُلْمًا وَزُورًا)

(In fact, they have produced an unjust wrong and a lie.) meaning, they are the ones who are telling a lie, and they know that it is false, for their own souls know that what they are claiming is not true.

(وَقَالُوا أُسْطِيرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ اكْتَتَبَهَا)

(And they say: "Tales of the ancients which he has written down...") meaning, the ancients wrote them down, and he has copied it.

(فَهِىَ تُمْلَى عَلَيْهِ)

(and they are dictated to him) means, they are read or recited to him.

(بُكْرَةً وَأَصِيلًا)

(morning and afternoon.) at the beginning and end of the day. Because this idea is so foolish and is so patently false, everyone knows that it is not true. It is known through Mutawatir reports and is a common fact that Muhammad the Messenger of Allah never learned to read or write, either at the beginning or the end of his life. He grew up among them for approximately forty years, from the time he was born until the time when his mission began. They knew all about him, and about his honest and sound character and how he would never lie or do anything immoral or bad. They even used to call him Al-Amin (the Trustworthy One) from a young age, until his mission began, because they saw how truthful and honest he was. When Allah honored him with that which He honored him, they declared their enmity towards him and came up with all these accusations which any reasonable person would know he was innocent of. They were not sure what to accuse him of. Sometimes they said that he was a sorcerer, at other times they would say he was a poet, or crazy, or a liar. So Allah said:

(انْظُرْ كَيْفَ ضَرَبُوا لَكَ الْأَمْثَالَ فَضَلُّوا فَلَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ سَبِيلًا)

(See what examples they have put forward for you. So they have gone astray, and never can they find a way.) (17:48) In response to their stubbornness, Allah says here:

(قُلْ أَنْزَلَهُ الَّذِي يَعْلَمُ السِّرَّ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ)

(Say: "It has been sent down by Him Who knows the secret of the heavens and the earth".) meaning, He has revealed the Qur'an which includes true information about the earlier and later generations, information which concurs with the realities of the past and future.

(الَّذِي يَعْلَمُ السِّرَّ)

(Who knows the secret) means, Allah is the One Who knows the unseen in the heavens and on the earth; He knows their secrets just as He knows what is visible therein.

(إِنَّهُ كَانَ غَفُوراً رَحِيماً)

(Truly, He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.) This is an invitation to them to repent and turn back to Allah, telling them that His mercy is vast and His patience is immense. Whoever repents to Him, He accepts his repentance. Despite all their lies, immorality, falsehood, disbelief and stubbornness, and saying what they said about the Messenger and the Qur'an, He still invites them to repent and give up their sin, and to come to Islam and true guidance. This is like the Ayat:

(لَقَدْ كَفَرَ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ ثَلَاثُ ثَلَاثٍ وَمَا مِنْ إِلَهٍ إِلَّا إِلَهُ وَحِدٌ وَإِنْ لَمْ يَنْتَهُوا عَمَّا يَقُولُونَ لَيَمَسَّنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ - أَفَلَا يَتُوبُونَ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَيَسْتَغْفِرُونَهُ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ)

(Surely, disbelievers are those who said: "Allah is the third of the three." But there is no god but One God. And if they cease not from what they say, verily, a painful torment will befall on the disbelievers among them. Will they not turn with repentance to Allah and ask His forgiveness For Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.) (5:73-74)

(إِنَّ الَّذِينَ فَتَنُوا الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَتُوبُوا فَلَهُمْ عَذَابُ جَهَنَّمَ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابُ الْحَرِيقِ)

(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.) (85:10) Al-Hasan Al-Basri said: "Look at this kindness and generosity! They killed His friends and He is calling them to repentance and mercy."

(وَقَالُوا مَا لِهَذَا الرَّسُولِ يَأْكُلُ الطَّعَامَ وَيَمْشِي فِي الْأَسْوَاقِ لَوْلَا أُنْزِلَ إِلَيْهِ مَلَكٌ فَيَكُونُ مَعَهُ

نَذِيرًا - أَوْ يُلْقَىٰ إِلَيْهِ كَنْزٌ أَوْ تَكُونُ لَهُ جَنَّةٌ يَأْكُلُ
 مِنْهَا وَقَالَ الظَّالِمُونَ إِن تَتَّبِعُونَ إِلَّا رَجُلًا
 مَّسْحُورًا - انْظُرْ كَيْفَ ضَرَبُوا لَكَ الْأَمْثَلَ
 فَضَلُّوا فَلَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ سَبِيلًا - تَبَارَكَ الَّذِي إِن
 شَاءَ جَعَلَ لَكَ خَيْرًا مِّنْ ذَلِكَ جَنَّتِ تَجْرَىٰ مِنْ
 تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ وَيَجْعَلَ لَكَ فُصُورًا - بَلْ كَذَّبُوا
 بِالسَّاعَةِ وَأَعْتَدْنَا لِمَن كَذَّبَ بِالسَّاعَةِ سَعِيرًا - إِذَا
 رَأَوْهُمْ مِّن مَّكَانٍ بَعِيدٍ سَمِعُوا لَهَا تَغِيْظًا وَزَفِيرًا -
 وَإِذَا أُلْقُوا مِنْهَا مَكَانًا ضَيِّقًا مُّقَرَّنِينَ دَعَوْا هُنَالِكَ
 ثُبُورًا - لَا تَدْعُوا الْيَوْمَ ثُبُورًا وَحِدًا وَّادْعُوا
 ثُبُورًا كَثِيرًا (

(7. And they say: "Why does this Messenger eat food, and walk about in the markets. Why is not an angel sent down to him to be a warner with him") (8. "Or (why) has not a treasure been granted to him, or why has he not a garden whereof he may eat" And the wrongdoers say: "You follow none but a man bewitched.") (9. See how they coin similitudes for you, so they have gone astray, and they cannot find a path.) (10. Blessed be He Who, if He wills, will assign you better than (all) that -- Gardens under which rivers flow and will assign you palaces.) (11. Nay, they deny the Hour, and for those who deny the Hour, We have prepared a flaming Fire.) (12. When it sees them from a far place, they will hear its raging and its roaring.) (13. And when they shall be thrown into a narrow place thereof, chained together, they will exclaim therein for destruction.) (14. Exclaim not today for one destruction, but exclaim for many destructions.)

What the Disbelievers said about the Messenger , refutation of Their Words, and Their ultimate Destiny

Allah tells us about the disbelievers' stubborn resistance to and rejection of the truth, with no proof or evidence for doing so. Their excuse was, as they said:

(مَا لِهَذَا الرَّسُولِ يَأْكُلُ الطَّعَامَ)

(Why does this Messenger eat food,) meaning, 'as we eat, and why does he need food as we need it'

(وَيَمْشِي فِي الْأَسْوَاقِ)

(and walk about in the markets.) means, he walks around and goes there often seeking to trade and earn a living.

(لَوْلَا أَنْزَلَ إِلَيْهِ مَلَكٌ فَيَكُونُ مَعَهُ نَذِيرًا)

(Why is not an angel sent down to him to be a warner with him) They were saying: why doesn't an angel come down to him from Allah, to be a witness that what he is claiming is true This is like when Fira`wn said:

(فَلَوْلَا أُلْقِيَ عَلَيْهِ أَسْوِرَةٌ مِّنْ ذَهَبٍ أَوْ جَاءَ مَعَهُ الْمَلَأِكَةُ مُقْتَرِنِينَ)

("Why then are not golden bracelets bestowed on him, or angels sent along with him") (43:53). These people had a similar mentality and said the same kind of thing. They said:

(أَوْ يُلْقَى إِلَيْهِ كَنْزٌ)

(Or (why) has not a treasure been granted to him) meaning, treasure that he could spend on his needs and wants.

(أَوْ تَكُونُ لَهُ جَنَّةٌ يَأْكُلُ مِنْهَا)

(or why has he not a garden whereof he may eat) meaning, a garden that would go with him wherever he went. All of this is easy for Allah, but He had a reason for not doing any of these things, and with Him is the perfect proof and argument.

(وَقَالَ الظَّالِمُونَ إِن تَتَّبِعُونَ إِلَّا رَجُلًا مَّسْحُورًا)

(And the wrongdoers say: "You follow none but a man bewitched.") Allah said:

(انْظُرْ كَيْفَ ضَرَبُوا لَكَ الْأَمْثَالَ فَضَلُّوا)

(See how they coin similitudes for you, so they have gone astray,) meaning, they accused you and belied you when they said that you were a sorcerer or bewitched or crazy or a liar or a poet, but all of these are false ideas. Everyone who has the slightest understanding will recognize that they are lying. Allah says:

(فُضِّلُوا)

(so they have gone astray) from the path of guidance.

(فَلَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ سَبِيلًا)

(and they cannot find a path.) Everyone who steps outside of the way of truth and guidance has gone astray, no matter what direction he takes, because the truth is one and its methodology is unified, parts of it confirming other parts. Then Allah tells His Prophet that if He willed, He could bestow on him in this world something far better than what they were saying. He said:

(تَبَارَكَ الَّذِي إِنْ شَاءَ جَعَلَ لَكَ خَيْرًا مِّنْ ذَلِكَ)

(Blessed be He Who, if He wills, will assign you better than (all) that...) Mujahid said, "This means in this world." And he said: "The Quraysh used to call every house that was made of stone a `palace', whether it was large or small."

(بَلْ كَذَّبُوا بِالسَّاعَةِ)

(Nay, they deny the Hour,) means, they say this in stubborn disbelief, not because they are seeking insight and guidance, but because their disbelief in the Day of Resurrection makes them say what they say.

(وَأَعْتَدْنَا)

(And We have prepared) means, `We have made ready,'

(لِمَن كَذَّبَ بِالسَّاعَةِ سَعِيرًا)

(for those who deny the Hour, a flaming Fire.) means, an unbearably hot and painful torment in the fire of Hell.

(إِذَا رَأَوْهُمْ)

(When it sees them) means, when Hell sees them,

(مِنْ مَّكَانٍ بَعِيدٍ)

(from a far place,) means from the place of gathering (on the Day of Resurrection),

(سَمِعُوا لَهَا تَغِيْظًا وَزَفِيْرًا)

(they will hear its raging and its roaring.) means, (it will make those sounds) out of hatred towards them. This is like the Ayah,

(إِذَا أُلْقُوا فِيْهَا سَمِعُوا لَهَا شَهِيقًا وَهِيَ تَفُورُ تَكَادُ تَمِيْزُ مِنَ الْغَيْظِ)

(When they are cast therein, they will hear the (terrible) drawing in of its breath as it blazes forth. It almost bursts up with fury) (67:7-8), which means that parts of it almost separate from other parts because of its intense hatred towards those who disbelieved in Allah. Imam Abu Ja'far bin Jarir narrated that Ibn `Abbas said: "A man will be dragged towards Hell, which will be expanding and contracting, and Ar-Rahman will say to it: `What is the matter with you' It will say: `He is seeking refuge from me.' So Allah will say, `Let My servant go.' Another man will be dragged towards Hell and he will say, `O Lord, I never expected this from You.' Allah will say, `What did you expect' The man will say, `I expected that Your mercy would be great enough to include me.' So Allah will say, `Let My servant go.' Another man will be dragged towards Hell, and Hell will bray at him like a donkey braying at barley. Then it will give a moan that will instill fear in everyone." Its chain of narrators is Sahih.

(سَمِعُوا لَهَا تَغِيْظًا وَزَفِيْرًا)

(they will hear its raging and its roaring.) `Abdur-Razzaq recorded that `Ubayd bin `Umayr said: "Hell will utter a moan such that there will be no angel who is close to Allah and no Prophet sent to mankind, but he will fall on his face, shaking all over. Even Ibrahim, peace be upon him, will fall to his knees and say: `O Lord, I do not ask You for salvation this Day except for myself.'"

(وَإِذَا أُلْقُوا مِنْهَا مَكَانًا ضَيِّقًا مُّقْرَّنِينَ)

(And when they shall be thrown into a narrow place thereof, chained together,) Qatadah narrated from Abu Ayyub that `Abdullah bin `Amr said: "Like the point of a spear, i.e., in its narrowness."

(مُقْرَّنِينَ)

(chained together,) Abu Salih said, "This means, tied from their shoulders."

(دَعَوْا هُنَالِكَ ثُبُورًا)

(they will exclaim for destruction..) means, they will utter cries of woe, regret and sorrow.

(لَا تَدْعُوا الْيَوْمَ ثُبُوراً وَحِداً)

(Exclaim not today for one destruction...)

(قُلْ أَذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ أَمْ جَنَّةُ الْخُلْدِ الَّتِي وَعَدَ الْمُتَّقُونَ
كَانَتْ لَهُمْ جَزَاءً وَمَصِيرًا - لَهُمْ فِيهَا مَا يَشَاءُونَ
خَالِدِينَ كَانَ عَلَى رَبِّكَ وَعْدًا مَسْئُولًا)

(15. Say: "Is that better or the Paradise of Eternity which is promised to those who have Taqwa" It will be theirs as a reward and final destination.) (16. For them there will be therein all that they desire, and they will abide (therein forever). It is upon your Lord a Wa`dan Mas'ula.)

Is the Fire better, or Paradise

Here Allah says: `O Muhammad, this that We have described to you about the state of those who are doomed, who will be dragged on their faces to Hell, which will receive them with a scowling face, with hatred and moans. There they will be thrown into their constricted spaces, tied up to their shoulders, unable to move or call for help, and unable to escape their plight --- is this better, or the eternal Paradise which Allah has promised to the pious among His servants, which He has prepared for them as a reward and ultimate destiny in return for their obedience to Him in this world'

(لَهُمْ فِيهَا مَا يَشَاءُونَ)

(For them there will be therein all that they desire,) of delights such as food, drink, clothing, dwellings, means of transportation and scenery, and other things that no eye has seen, no ear has heard, nor the heart of anyone can comprehend. They will abide therein forever; it will never cease or come to an end, and they will never leave it. This is what Allah has promised to those whom He has blessed and to whom He has shown His favor. He says:

(كَانَ عَلَى رَبِّكَ وَعْدًا مَسْئُولًا)

(It is a upon your Lord a Wa`dan Mas'ula) meaning, it must inevitably come to pass. Abu Ja`far bin Jarir reported from some of the scholars of the Arabic language that the words

(وَعْدًا مَسْئُولًا)

(Wa` dan Ma'sula) mean: a binding pledge. In this Surah Allah mentions Hell, then refers to the situation of the people of Paradise. This is similar to the passage in Surat As-Saffat where Allah mentions the status of the people of Paradise, with its beauty and joy, then He says:

(أَذَلِّكَ خَيْرٌ نُّزْلاً أَمْ شَجَرَةُ الزَّقْقُومِ - إِنَّا جَعَلْنَاهَا
فِتْنَةً لِلظَّالِمِينَ - إِنَّهَا شَجَرَةٌ تَخْرُجُ فِي أَصْلِ
الْجَحِيمِ - طَلْعُهَا كَأَنَّهُ رُءُوسُ الشَّيَاطِينِ - فَإِنَّهُمْ
لَا كِلُونَ مِنْهَا فَمَالِئُونَ مِنْهَا الْبُطُونَ - ثُمَّ إِنَّ لَهُمْ
عَلَيْهَا لَشَوْباً مِنْ حَمِيمٍ - ثُمَّ إِنَّ مَرْجِعَهُمْ لَإِلَى
الْجَحِيمِ - إِنَّهُمْ أَلْفَوْا آبَاءَهُمْ ضَالِّينَ - فَهُمْ عَلَى
ءَاتَارِهِمْ يُهْرَعُونَ)

:(Is that better entertainment or the tree of Zaqqum Truly, We have made it a trial for the wrongdoers. Verily, it is a tree that springs out of the bottom of Hellfire, The shoots of its fruit stalks are like the heads of Shayatin. Truly, they will eat thereof and fill their bellies therewith. Then on the top of that they will be given boiling water to drink so that it becomes a mixture. Then thereafter, verily, their return is to the flaming fire of Hell. Verily, they found their fathers on the wrong path. So they hastened in their footsteps!) (37:62-70)

(وَيَوْمَ يُحْشَرُهُمْ وَمَا يَعْبُدُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ فَيَقُولُ
أَءَنْتُمْ أَضَلَلْتُمْ عِبَادِي هَؤُلَاءِ أَمْ هُمْ ضَلُّوا السَّبِيلَ
- قَالُوا سُبْحَنَكَ مَا كَانَ يَنْبَغِي لَنَا أَنْ نَتَّخِذَ مِنْ
دُونِكَ مِنْ أَوْلِيَاءَ وَلَكِنْ مَتَّعْتَهُمْ وَعَابَاءَهُمْ حَتَّى
نَسُوا الذِّكْرَ وَكَانُوا قَوْمًا بُورًا - فَقَدْ كَذَّبُوكُمْ بِمَا
تَقُولُونَ فَمَا تَسْتَطِيعُونَ صَرْفًا وَلَا نَصْرًا وَمَنْ
يَظْلِم مِّنْكُمْ نُدِقْهُ عَذَابًا كَبِيرًا)

(17. And on the Day when He will gather them together and that which they worship besides Allah. He will say: "Was it you who misled these My servants or did they stray from the path") (18. They will say: "Glorified be You! It was not for us to take any Awliya' besides You, but You gave them and their fathers comfort till they forgot the warning, and became a lost people.") (19. Thus they will deny you in what you say; then you can neither avert nor find help. And whoever among you does wrong, We shall make him taste a great torment.)

The gods of the Idolators will disown Them on the Day of Resurrection

Allah tells us about what will happen on the Day of Resurrection, when those whom the idolators used to worship instead of Allah, angels and others, will rebuke them. Allah says:

(وَيَوْمَ يَحْشُرُهُمْ وَمَا يَعْبُدُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ)

(And on the Day when He will gather them together and that which they worship besides Allah.) Mujahid said, "This means `Isa, `Uzayr and the angels."

(فَيَقُولُ أَأَنْتُمْ أَضَلَلْتُمْ عِبَادِي هَؤُلَاءِ)

(He will say: "Was it you who misled these My servants...") Allah will say to those who were worshipped: `Did you call these people to worship you instead of Me, or was it their own idea to worship you, without any call to that on your part' This is like the Ayah,

(وَإِذْ قَالَ اللَّهُ يَعْيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ أَأَنْتَ قُلْتَ لِلنَّاسِ اتَّخِذُونِي وَأُمِّي إِلَهَيْنِ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ قَالَ سُبْحَانَكَ مَا يَكُونُ لِي أَنْ أَقُولَ مَا لَيْسَ لِي بِحَقٍّ إِنْ كُنْتُ قُلْتُهُ فَقَدْ عَلِمْتَهُ تَعْلَمُ مَا فِي نَفْسِي وَلَا أَعْلَمُ مَا فِي نَفْسِكَ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ عَْلَمُ الْغُيُوبِ مَا قُلْتُ لَهُمْ إِلَّا مَا أُمَرْتُنِي بِهِ)

(And when Allah will say: "O `Isa, son of Maryam! Did you say unto men: `Worship me and my mother as two gods besides Allah' " He will say: "Glory be to You! It was not for me to say what I had no right (to say). Had I said such a thing, You would surely have known it. You know what is in my innerself though I do not know what is in Yours; truly, You, only You, are the All-Knower of all that is hidden. Never did I say to them aught except what You did command me to say.") (5:116-117) Describing how those who were worshipped will respond on the Day of Resurrection, Allah says:

(قَالُوا سُبْحَانَكَ مَا كَانَ يَنْبَغِي لَنَا أَنْ نَتَّخِذَ مِنْ
دُونِكَ مِنْ أَوْلِيَاءَ)

(They will say: "Glorified be You! It was not for us to take (Nattakhidh) any Awliya' besides You...") Most of the scholars recite a Fathah on the Nun of the word Nattakhidh in His saying:

(نَتَّخِذُ مِنْ دُونِكَ مِنْ أَوْلِيَاءَ)

("...for us to take (Nattakhidh) any Awliya' besides You,") meaning, 'it is not right for any created being, neither us nor them, to worship anyone except You; we did not call them to do that, but they did it of their own accord, without us telling them to do it or accepting what they did. We are innocent of them and their worship.' This is like the Ayah,

(وَيَوْمَ يَحْشُرُهُمْ جَمِيعًا ثُمَّ يَقُولُ لِلْمَلَكَةِ أَهْوُلَاءِ
إِيَّاكُمْ كَانُوا يَعْبُدُونَ قَالُوا سُبْحَانَكَ)

(And (remember) the Day when He will gather them all together, then He will say to the angels: "Was it you that these people used to worship" They (the angels) will say: "Glorified be You!") (34:40-41) Other scholars understand this phrase to mean: 'it is not proper for us to take anyone except You as protectors or helpers (Awliya)', ' meaning, 'it is not proper for anyone to worship us, for we are Your servants and in need of You.' This meaning is close to the first.

(وَلَكِنْ مَتَّعْتُهُمْ وَءَابَاءَهُمْ)

(but You gave them and their fathers comfort) means, 'You made such a long period of time pass that they forgot the Reminder, i.e., they forgot what had been sent down to them through the Messengers, calling them to worship You alone with no partner or associate.'

(وَكَانُوا قَوْمًا بُورًا)

(and became a lost people.) Ibn `Abbas said, "This means, they were destroyed." Al-Hasan Al-Basri and Malik narrated from Az-Zuhri: "There was no good in them." And Allah says:

(فَقَدْ كَذَّبْتُمْ بِمَا تَقُولُونَ)

(Thus they will deny you because of what you say;) meaning, 'those whom you used to worship besides Allah will show you to be liars in your claims that they were your helpers and protectors bringing you closer to Allah.' This is like the Ayat:

(وَمَنْ أَضَلُّ مِمَّن يَدْعُو مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ مَن لَّا يَسْتَجِيبُ لَهُ إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَمَةِ وَهُمْ عَن دُعَائِهِمْ غَفِلُونَ - وَإِذَا حُشِرَ النَّاسُ كَانُوا لَهُمْ أَعْدَاءً وَكَانُوا بِعِبَادَتِهِمْ كَافِرِينَ)

(And who is more astray than one who calls on besides Allah, such as will not answer him till the Day of Resurrection, and who are unaware of their calls to them. And when mankind are gathered, they will become their enemies and will deny their worshipping.) (46:5-6)

(فَمَا تَسْتَطِيعُونَ صَرْفًا وَلَا نَصْرًا)

(then you can neither avert nor find help.) means: they will not be able to avert the punishment from themselves, nor will they be able to help themselves.

(وَمَن يَظْلِم مِّنكُمْ)

(And whoever among you does wrong,) means by associating others in worship with Allah,

(نُذِقُهُ عَذَابًا كَبِيرًا)

(We shall make him taste a great torment.)

(وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا قَبْلَكَ مِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ إِلَّا إِنَّهُمْ لَيَأْكُلُونَ
الطَّعَامَ وَيَمْشُونَ فِي الْأَسْوَاقِ وَجَعَلْنَا بَعْضَكُمْ
لِبَعْضٍ فِتْنَةً أَتَصْبِرُونَ وَكَانَ رَبُّكَ بَصِيرًا)

(20. And We never sent before you any of the Messengers but verily, they ate food and walked in the markets. And We have made some of you as a trial for others; will you have patience And your Lord is Ever All-Seer.) and who are unaware of their calls to them. And when mankind are gathered, they will become their enemies and will deny their worshipping.) (46:5-6)

(فَمَا تَسْتَطِيعُونَ صَرْفًا وَلَا نَصْرًا)

(then you can neither avert nor find help.) means: they will not be able to avert the punishment from themselves, nor will they be able to help themselves.

(وَمَنْ يَظْلِمِ مِّنْكُمْ)

(And whoever among you does wrong,) means by associating others in worship with Allah,

(نُذِقْهُ عَذَابًا كَبِيرًا)

(We shall make him taste a great torment.)

(وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا قَبْلَكَ مِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ إِلَّا إِنَّهُمْ لَيَأْكُلُونَ
الطَّعَامَ وَيَمْشُونَ فِي الْأَسْوَاقِ وَجَعَلْنَا بَعْضَكُمْ
لِبَعْضٍ فِتْنَةً أَتَصْبِرُونَ وَكَانَ رَبُّكَ بَصِيرًا)

(20. And We never sent before you any of the Messengers but verily, they ate food and walked in the markets. And We have made some of you as a trial for others; will you have patience And your Lord is Ever All-Seer.)

All of the Previous Messengers were Human

Allah tells us about the previous Messengers He sent: they all used to eat food needing the nourishment in it. They used to go around in the marketplaces seeking to engage in trade and earn a livelihood. This should not, however, affect their status as Messengers, for Allah gave them good characteristics and caused them to speak fine words and do noble deeds, and gave them miracles and clear proofs, from which any person with sound insight may see the confirmation that what they brought from Allah was true. This Ayah is similar to the Ayat;

(وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِن قَبْلِكَ إِلَّا رَجَالًا نُوحِيَ إِلَيْهِمْ مِّنْ
أَهْلِ الْقُرَى)

(And We sent not before you any but men unto whom We revealed, from among the people of townships) (12:109).

(وَمَا جَعَلْنَاهُمْ جَسَدًا لَا يَأْكُلُونَ الطَّعَامَ)

(And We did not create them bodies that ate not food) (21:8).

(وَجَعَلْنَا بَعْضَكُمْ لِبَعْضٍ فِتْنَةً أَتَصْبِرُونَ)

(And We have made some of you as a trial for others; will you have patience) means, `We test some of you by means of others, so that We may see who will be obedient and who will be disobedient.' Allah says:

(أَتَصْبِرُونَ وَكَانَ رَبُّكَ بَصِيرًا)

(will you have patience And your Lord is Ever All-Seer.) meaning, He knows who deserves to receive revelation, as Allah says elsewhere:

(اللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ حَيْثُ يَجْعَلُ رِسَالَتَهُ)

(Allah knows best with whom to place His Message) (6:124). And He knows who deserves to be guided to the Message with which He sent them, and who does not deserve to be guided.

(وَجَعَلْنَا بَعْضَكُمْ لِبَعْضٍ فِتْنَةً أَتَصْبِرُونَ)

(And We have made some of you as a trial for others. Will you have patience) Muhammad bin Ishaq said: Allah is saying, "If I had willed that the world be such that no one would oppose My Messengers, I could have made it so, but I wanted to test My servants by means of them." In Sahih Muslim it is narrated from `Iyad bin Himar that the Messenger of Allah said:

«يَقُولُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى: إِنِّي مُبْتَالِيكَ وَمُبْتَلٍ بِكَ»

(Allah says: "I will test you and test others by means of you.") In the Sahih it is recorded that he was given the choice between being a Prophet and king, or being a servant and Messenger, and he chose to be a servant and Messenger.

(وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ لَا يَرْجُونَ لِقَاءَنَا لَوْلَا أُنْزِلَ عَلَيْنَا الْمَلِيْكَةُ أَوْ نَرَى رَبَّنَا لَقَدْ اسْتَكْبَرُوا فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ وَعَتَوْا عُتُوًّا كَبِيرًا - يَوْمَ يَرَوْنَ الْمَلِيْكَةَ لَا بُشْرَى يَوْمَئِذٍ لِلْمُجْرِمِينَ وَيَقُولُونَ حَجْرًا مَّحْجُورًا - وَقَدِمْنَا إِلَى مَا عَمِلُوا مِنْ عَمَلٍ فَجَعَلْنَاهُ هَبَاءً مَنْثُورًا - أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ يَوْمَئِذٍ خَيْرٌ مُسْتَقَرًّا وَأَحْسَنُ مَقِيلًا)

(21. And those who expect not a meeting with Us said: "Why are not the angels sent down to us, or why do we not see our Lord" Indeed they think too highly of themselves, and are scornful with great pride.) (22. On the Day they will see the angels -- no good news will there be for the criminals that day. And they will say: "Hijran Mahjura.") (23. And We shall turn to whatever deeds they did, and We shall make such deeds as scattered floating particles of dust.) (24. The dwellers of Paradise will, on that Day, have the best abode, and have the fairest of places for repose.)

The Stubbornness of the Disbelievers

Allah describes how stubborn the disbelievers were in their disbelief when they said:

(لِقَاءَنَا لَوْ لَا أَنْزَلَ عَلَيْنَا)

(Why are not the angels sent down to us,) meaning, 'so that we may see them with our own eyes and they may tell us that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.' This is like when they said:

(أَوْ تَأْتِي بِاللَّهِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةِ قَبِيلًا)

(or you bring Allah and the angels before (us) face to face) (17:92). Hence they also said:

(الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَوْ نَرَى)

(or why do we not see our Lord) Allah said:

(رَبَّنَا لَقَدْ اسْتَكْبَرُوا فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ وَاعْتَوْا عُتُورًا)

(Indeed they think too highly of themselves, and are scornful with great pride.) And Allah says:

(وَلَوْ أَنَّا نَزَّلْنَاهُ إِلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةَ وَكَلَّمَهُمُ الْمَوْتَى)

(And even if We had sent down unto them angels, and the dead had spoken unto them...) (6:111)

(يَوْمَ يَرَوْنَ الْمَلَائِكَةَ لَا بُشْرَى يَوْمَئِذٍ لِلْمُجْرِمِينَ
وَيَقُولُونَ حِجْرًا مَّحْجُورًا)

(On the Day they will see the angels -- no good news will there be for the criminals that day. And they will say: "Hijran Mahjura.") means, when they do see the angels, it will not be a good day for them, for on that day there will be no good news for them. This is also confirmed at

the time when they are dying, when the angels say to them the tidings of Hell and the wrath of the Compeller, and when the disbeliever's soul is being taken out, the angels say to it, "Come out, O evil soul from an evil body, come out to fierce hot wind and boiling water, and the shadow of black smoke." It refuses to come out and it scatters throughout his body, so they beat him, as Allah says:

(وَلَوْ تَرَىٰ إِذِ يَتَوَقَّى الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا الْمَلَائِكَةَ يَصْرُبُونَ وُجُوهُهُمْ وَأَدْبَرَ هُمْ)

(And if you could see when the angels take away the souls of those who disbelieve; they smite their faces and their backs...) (8:50)

(وَلَوْ تَرَىٰ إِذِ الظَّالِمُونَ فِي غَمَرَاتِ الْمَوْتِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ بَاسِطُوا أَيْدِيهِمْ)

(And if you could but see when the wrongdoers are in the agonies of death, while the angels are stretching forth their hands.) that is, to beat them:

(أَخْرِجُوا أَنْفُسَكُمُ الْيَوْمَ تُجْزَوْنَ عَذَابَ الْهُونِ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَقُولُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ غَيْرَ الْحَقِّ وَكُنْتُمْ عَنْ آيَاتِهِ تَسْتَكْبِرُونَ)

((saying): "Deliver your souls! This day you shall be recompensed with the torment of degradation because of what you used to utter against Allah other than the truth. And you used to reject His Ayat with disrespect!") (6: 93) Hence in this Ayah Allah says:

(يَوْمَ يَرَوْنَ الْمَلَائِكَةَ لَا بُشْرَىٰ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِلْمُجْرِمِينَ)

(On the Day they will see the angels -- no good news will there be for the criminals) This is in contrast to the state of the believers when death approaches them, for they are given glad tidings of joy and delight. Allah says:

(إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَمُوا تَتَنَزَّلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنْتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ - نَحْنُ أَوْلِيَائُكُمْ فِي

الْحَيٰوةِ الدُّنْيَا وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَشْتَهُى
 أَنْفُسُكُمْ وَلَكُمْ فِيهَا مَا تَدَّعُونَ - نُزُلًا مِّنْ غَفُورٍ
 رَّحِيمٍ)

(Verily, those who say: "Our Lord is Allah," and then they stand firm, on them the angels will descend (saying): "Fear not, nor grieve! But receive the good news of Paradise which you have been promised! We have been your friends in the life of this world and are (so) in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have what your souls desire, and therein you shall have what you ask for. Entertainment from, the Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.") (41:30-32) According to an authentic Hadith narrated from Al-Bara' bin `Azib, the angels say to the believer's soul (at the time of death): "Come out, O good soul in a good body, as you were dwelling in it. Come out to rest and pleasant fragrances and a Lord Who is not angry." Other scholars said that the Ayah:

(يَوْمَ يَرَوْنَ الْمَلَائِكَةَ لَا بُشْرَىٰ)

(On the Day they will see the angels -- no good news) refers to the Day of Resurrection. This was the view of Mujahid, Ad-Dahhak and others. But there is no contradiction between these two views, because on both of these days -- the day of death and the Day of Resurrection -- the angels will appear to the believers and disbelievers, and they will give glad tidings of divine mercy and pleasure to the believers, while they will give the disbelievers news that will bring regret and sorrow, so there will be no glad tidings for the evildoers and criminals on that Day.

(وَيَقُولُونَ حِجْرًا مَّحْجُورًا)

(And they (angels) will say: "Hijran Mahjura.") The angels will say to the disbelievers: 'success is forbidden to you this day.' The basic meaning of Al-Hijr is preventing or prohibition, hence the word is used in the phrase "Hajara Al-Qadi `Ala Fulan" (or, "The judge prohibited so and so.") when he forbids him to dispose of his wealth in cases of bankruptcy, folly, being underage, etc. The name of Al-Hijr (the low semicircular wall near the Ka`bah) is also derived from this root, because it prevents people from Tawaf inside it, since they have to go behind it. The mind is also called Al-Hijr, because it prevents a person from indulging in things that do not befit him. In conclusion, the pronoun in the phrase.

(وَيَقُولُونَ)

(And they will say) refers to the angels. This was the view of Mujahid, `Ikrimah, Al-Hasan, Ad-Dahhak, Qatadah, `Atiyah Al-`Awfi, `Ata' Al-Khurasani, Khusayf and others; it was also the view favored by Ibn Jarir. Ibn Jarir recorded that Ibn Jurayj said that this referred to the words of the idolators.

(يَوْمَ يَرَوْنَ الْمَلَائِكَةَ)

(On the Day they will see the angels) means, they will seek refuge from the angels. This is because when disaster and hardship struck, the Arabs would say:

(حِجْرًا مَّحْجُورًا)

("Hijran Mahjura.") Although there is a point to what Ibn Jurayj said, from the context it is unlikely that this is what was meant, and the majority of scholars said something different.

(وَقَدِمْنَا إِلَى مَا عَمِلُوا مِنْ عَمَلٍ)

(And We shall turn to whatever deeds they did,) This refers to the Day of Resurrection, when Allah will bring mankind to account for their deeds, good and bad alike. Allah tells us that the deeds which these idolators thought would bring them salvation will be of no avail to them, because they were not in accordance with the Shari' ah or Laws of Allah, whether in terms of sincere intention or in terms of following the Laws set out by Allah. Every deed that is neither sincere nor in accordance with the Laws of Allah is futile, and the deeds of the disbelievers are either one or the other, or they may include both, in which case they are even less likely to be accepted. Allah says:

(وَقَدِمْنَا إِلَى مَا عَمِلُوا مِنْ عَمَلٍ فَجَعَلْنَاهُ هَبَاءً
مَّنْثُورًا)

(And We shall turn to whatever deeds they did, and We shall make such deeds as scattered floating particles of dust.) Sufyan Ath-Thawri, narrated from Abu Ishaq, from Al-Harith that `Ali, may Allah be pleased with him, commented on Allah's saying:

(فَجَعَلْنَاهُ هَبَاءً مَّنْثُورًا)

(and We shall make such deeds as scattered floating particles of dust (Haba').) "The rays of the sun when they pass through a small aperture." A similar view was also narrated through a different chain of narrators from `Ali, and something similar was also narrated from Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid, `Ikrimah, Sa`id bin Jubayr, As-Suddi, Ad-Dahhak and others. Al-Hasan Al-Basri said, "This refers to the rays coming through a small window, and if anyone tries to grasp them, he cannot." Abu Al-Ahwas narrated from Abu Ishaq from Al-Harith that `Ali said: "Haba' refers to the dust raised by animals." A similar view was also narrated from Ibn `Abbas and Ad-Dahhak, and this was also said by `Abdur-Rahman bin Zayd bin Aslam.

(هَبَاءً مَّنْثُورًا)

(scattered floating particles of dust (Haba').) Qatadah said: "Have you not seen dry trees when they are blown by the wind This refers to those leaves." It was narrated that Ya`la bin `Ubayd said: "Ashes or dust when it is stirred up by the wind." In conclusion, all of these views are pointing out that the deeds of the disbelievers will be like some worthless scattered thing, and will be of no avail to them whatsoever. As Allah says:

(مَثَلُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِرَبِّهِمْ أَعْمَالُهُمْ كَرَمَادٍ اشْتَدَّتْ بِهِ الرِّيحُ)

(The parable of those who disbelieved in their Lord is that their works are as ashes, on which the wind blows furiously) (14:18).

(يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا تُبْطِلُوا صَدَقَتِكُمْ بِالْمَنِّ وَالْأَذَى)

(O you who believe! Do not render in vain your charity by reminders of your generosity or by injury,) until His saying:

(لَا يَقْدِرُونَ عَلَى شَيْءٍ مِّمَّا كَسَبُوا)

(They are not able to do anything with what they have earned) (2:264).

(وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَعْمَالُهُمْ كَسَرَابٍ بِقِيعَةٍ يَحْسَبُهُ الظَّمَانُ مَاءً حَتَّى إِذَا جَاءَهُ لَمْ يَجِدْهُ شَيْئًا)

(As for those who disbelieved, their deeds are like a mirage in a desert. The thirsty one thinks it to be water, until he comes up to it, he finds it to be nothing) (24:39).

The Abode of the People of Paradise

Allah says:

(أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ يَوْمَئِذٍ خَيْرٌ مُّسْتَقَرًّا وَأَحْسَنُ مَقِيلًا)

(The dwellers of Paradise will, on that Day, have the best abode, and have the fairest of places for repose.) meaning, on the Day of Resurrection.

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

(Not equal are the dwellers of the Fire and the dwellers of the Paradise. It is the dwellers of Paradise that will be successful) (59:20). That is because the people of Paradise will ascend to lofty degrees and secure dwellings, so they will be in a place of safety, beauty and goodness,

(خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا حَسُنَتْ مُسْتَقَرًّا وَمُقَامًا)

(Abiding therein -- excellent it is as an abode, and as a place to rest in.) (25:76) The people of Hell will go down to the lowest levels and continual regret, with all kinds of punishments and torments.

(إِنَّهَا سَاءَتْ مُسْتَقَرًّا وَمُقَامًا)

(Evil indeed it (Hell) is as an abode and as a place to rest in.) (25:66) means, how evil a dwelling place to look at, and how evil an abode in which to stay. Allah says:

(أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ يَوْمَئِذٍ خَيْرٌ مُسْتَقَرًّا وَأَحْسَنُ مَقِيلًا)

(The dwellers of Paradise will, on that Day, have the best abode, and have the fairest of places for repose.) meaning, in return for what they have done of acceptable deeds, they will attain what they will attain and reach the status they will reach, in contrast to the people of Hell, who will not have even one deed to their credit that would qualify them to enter Paradise and be saved from the Fire. Allah points out the situation of the blessed in contrast to that of the doomed, who will not enjoy any goodness at all. Sa'id bin Jubayr said: "Allah will finish the Judgement halfway through the Day, and the people of Paradise will take their mid day rest in Paradise and the people of Hell in Hell. Allah says:

(أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ يَوْمَئِذٍ خَيْرٌ مُسْتَقَرًّا وَأَحْسَنُ مَقِيلًا)

(The dwellers of Paradise will, on that Day, have the best abode, and have the fairest of places for repose.) `Ikrimah said, "I know the time when the people of Paradise will enter Paradise and the people of Hell will enter Hell. It is the time which in this world is the time when the late forenoon starts and people go back to their families to take a siesta. The people of Hell will go to Hell, but the people of Paradise will be taken to Paradise and will have their siesta in Paradise, and they will be fed the liver of a whale and they will all eat their fill. This is what Allah says:

(أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ يَوْمَئِذٍ خَيْرٌ مُّسْتَقَرًّا وَأَحْسَنُ مَقِيلًا)

(The dwellers of Paradise will, on that Day, have the best abode, and have the fairest of places for repose.)

(وَيَوْمَ تَشَقَّقُ السَّمَاءُ بِالْغَمَمِ وَنُزِّلَ الْمَلَائِكَةُ تَنْزِيلًا - الْمَلِكُ يَوْمَئِذٍ الْحَقُّ لِلرَّحْمَنِ وَكَانَ يَوْمًا عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ عَسِيرًا - وَيَوْمَ يَعَضُّ الظَّالِمُ عَلَى يَدَيْهِ يَقُولُ يَلَيْتَنِي اتَّخَذْتُ مَعَ الرَّسُولِ سَبِيلًا - يَوَيْلًا لَّيْتَنِي لَمْ أَتَّخِذْ فُلَانًا خَلِيلًا - لَقَدْ أَضَلَّنِي عَنِ الذِّكْرِ بَعْدَ إِذْ جَاءَنِي وَكَانَ الشَّيْطَانُ لِلْإِنْسَانِ خَذُولًا)

(25. And (remember) the Day when the heaven shall be rent asunder with clouds, and the angels will be sent down, with a grand descending.) (26. The sovereignty on that Day will be the true (sovereignty) of the Most Gracious, and it will be a hard Day for the disbelievers.) (27. And (remember) the Day when the wrongdoer will bite at his hands, he will say: "Oh! Would that I had taken a path with the Messenger.") (28. "Ah! Woe to me! Would that I had never taken so-and-so as an intimate friend!") (29. "He indeed led me astray from the Reminder after it had come to me. And Shaytan is to man ever a deserter.")

The Terrors of the Day of Resurrection, and how the Wrongdoers will wish that They had taken a Path with the Messenger

Here Allah tells us about the terror of the Day of Resurrection and the tremendous events that will happen, including the splitting of heavens when they are pierced by the clouds, that is the shadow of the magnificent light which dazzles all sight. The angels of heaven will come down on that Day and surround all creatures at the place of gathering, then the Lord, may He be blessed and exalted, will come to pass judgement. Mujahid said, "This is as Allah says:

(هَلْ يَنْظُرُونَ إِلَّا أَنْ يَأْتِيَهُمُ اللَّهُ فِي ظُلَلٍ مِّنَ
الْغَمَامِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةِ)

(Do they then wait for anything other than that Allah should come to them in the shadows of the clouds and the angels)" (2:210)

(الْمُلْكُ يَوْمَئِذٍ الْحَقُّ لِلرَّحْمَنِ)

(The sovereignty on that Day will be the true (sovereignty) of the Most Gracious,) This is like the Ayah,

(لَمَنَ الْمُلْكُ الْيَوْمَ لِلَّهِ الْوَاحِدِ الْقَهَّارِ)

(Whose is the kingdom this Day: It is Allah's, the One, the Irresistable!) (40:16) In the Sahih it says:

«أَنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى يَطْوِي السَّمَوَاتِ بِيَمِينِهِ، وَيَأْخُذُ
الْأَرْضِينَ بِيَدِهِ الْأُخْرَى، ثُمَّ يَقُولُ: أَنَا الْمَلِكُ أَنَا
الدَّيَّانُ، أَيْنَ مُلُوكُ الْأَرْضِ؟ أَيْنَ الْجَبَّارُونَ؟ أَيْنَ
الْمُتَكَبِّرُونَ؟»

(Allah, may He be exalted, will fold up the heavens in His Right Hand, and will take the earths in His other Hand, then He will say: "I am the Sovereign, I am the Judge. Where are the kings of the earth Where are the tyrants Where are the arrogant")

(وَكَانَ يَوْمًا عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ عَسِيرًا)

(and it will be a hard Day for the disbelievers.) means it will be very difficult, because it will be the Day of justice and the decisive judgement, as Allah says:

(فَذَلِكَ يَوْمَئِذٍ يَوْمٌ عَسِيرٌ - عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ غَيْرُ
يَسِيرٍ)

(Truly, that Day will be a hard Day -- Far from easy for the disbelievers) (74:9-10). This is how the disbelievers will be on the Day of Resurrection. As for the believers, Allah says:

(لَا يَحْزَنُهُمُ الْفَزَعُ الْأَكْبَرُ)

(The greatest terror will not grieve them.)

(وَيَوْمَ يَعَضُّ الظَّالِمُ عَلَى يَدَيْهِ يَقُولُ لِيَتَنَّبَى
أَتَّخَذْتُ مَعَ الرَّسُولِ سَبِيلًا)

(And (remember) the Day when the wrongdoer will bite at his hands, he will say: "O! Would that I had taken a path with the Messenger.") Here Allah tells us of the regret felt by the wrongdoer who rejected the path of the Messenger and what he brought from Allah of clear truth concerning which there is no doubt, and followed another path. When the Day of Resurrection comes, he will feel regret but his regret will avail him nothing, and he will bite on his hands in sorrow and grief. Whether this Ayah was revealed concerning `Uqbah bin Abi Mu`it or someone else among the doomed, it applies to every wrongdoer, as Allah says:

(يَوْمَ نُقَلِّبُ وُجُوهَهُمْ فِي النَّارِ)

(On the Day when their faces will be turned over in the Fire) as mentioned in those two Ayat)33:66(Every wrongdoer will feel the ultimate regret on the Day of Resurrection, and will bite at his hands, saying:

(وَيَوْمَ يَعَضُّ الظَّالِمُ عَلَى يَدَيْهِ يَقُولُ لِيَتَنَّبَى
أَتَّخَذْتُ مَعَ الرَّسُولِ سَبِيلًا - يَوَيْلًا لِّيَتَنَّبَى لِمَ أَتَّخَذُ
فُلَانًا خَلِيلًا)

(O! Would that I had taken a path with the Messenger. Ah! Woe to me! Would that I had never taken so-and-so as an intimate friend!) meaning, the one among the propagators of misguidance who diverted him from true guidance and led him to follow the path of misguidance, whether this refers to Umayyah bin Khalaf or his brother Ubayy bin Khalaf, or to someone else.

(لَقَدْ أَضَلَّنِي عَنِ الذِّكْرِ)

(He indeed led me astray from the Reminder) means the Qur'an,

(بَعْدَ إِذْ جَاءَنِي)

(after it had come to me.) means, after it had reached me. Allah says:

(وَكَانَ الشَّيْطَانُ لِلْإِنْسَانِ خَذُولًا)

(And Shaytan is to man ever a deserter (in the hour of need).) meaning, he leads him away from the truth and diverts him from it, and uses him for the purposes of falsehood and calls him to it.

(وَقَالَ الرَّسُولُ يَرْبِّ إِنَّ قَوْمِي اتَّخَذُوا هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ مَهْجُورًا - وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَا لِكُلِّ نَبِيٍّ عَدُوًّا مِّنَ الْمُجْرِمِينَ وَكَفَىٰ بِرَبِّكَ هَادِيًا وَنَصِيرًا)

(30. And the Messenger will say: "O my Lord! Verily, my people deserted this Qur'an.") v(31. Thus have We made for every Prophet an enemy among the criminals. But sufficient is your Lord as a Guide and Helper.)

The Messenger will complain against His Opponents

Allah tells how His Messenger and Prophet Muhammad will say: "O my Lord! Verily, my people deserted this Qur'an." The idolators would not listen to the Qur'an, as Allah says:

(وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَا تَسْمَعُوا لِهَذَا الْقُرْآنِ وَالْغَوْا فِيهِ)

(And those who disbelieve say: "Listen not to this Qur'an, and make noise in the midst of it.") (41:26). When he would recite Qur'an to them, they would talk nonsense or speak about something else, so that they would not hear it. This is a form of forsaking it and rejecting it, and not believing in it is the same as forsaking it, and not pondering its meanings and trying to understand it is the same as forsaking it, and not acting upon it and following its commandments and heeding its prohibitions is the same as forsaking it, and turning away from it in favor of poetry or other words or songs or idle talk or some other way is the same as forsaking it. We ask Allah, the Most Generous, the Bestower of bounty, the One Who is able to do what He wills, to keep us safe from doing that which earns His wrath and to use us to do that which will earn His pleasure of preserving and understanding His Book, following its commandments night and day in the manner which He loves and which pleases Him, for He is Generous and Kind.

(وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَا لِكُلِّ نَبِيٍّ عَدُوًّا مِّنَ الْمُجْرِمِينَ)

(Thus have We made for every Prophet an enemy among the criminals.) means, 'just as there is for you, O Muhammad, those people who scorned the Qur'an, so in all the previous nations did Allah make for every Prophet an enemy among the criminals, who called people to their misguidance and disbelief,' as Allah says:

(وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَا لِكُلِّ نَبِيٍّ عَدُوًّا شَيَاطِينَ الْإِنْسِ وَالْجِنِّ)

(And so We have appointed for every Prophet enemies -- Shayatin among mankind and Jinn) as stated in these two Ayat. (6:112) Allah says here:

(وَكَفَىٰ بِرَبِّكَ هَادِيًا وَنَصِيرًا)

(But sufficient is your Lord as a Guide and Helper.) meaning, for the one who follows His Messenger and believes in His Book, Allah will be his Guide and Helper in this world and the Hereafter. Allah says

(هَادِيًا وَنَصِيرًا)

(a Guide and Helper.) because the idolators used to try to prevent people from following the Qur'an lest anyone be guided by it. They wanted their way to prevail over the way of the Qur'an. Allah says:

(وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَا لِكُلِّ نَبِيٍّ عَدُوًّا مِّنَ الْمُجْرِمِينَ)

(Thus have We made for every Prophet an enemy among the criminals.)

(وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَوْلَا نُزِّلَ عَلَيْهِ الْقُرْآنُ جُمْلَةً وَاحِدَةً كَذَلِكَ لِنُثَبِّتَ بِهِ فُؤَادَكَ وَرَتَّلْنَاهُ تَرْتِيلًا - وَلَا يَأْتُونَكَ بِمَثَلٍ إِلَّا جِئْنَاكَ بِالْحَقِّ وَأَحْسَنَ تَفْسِيرًا - الَّذِينَ يُحْشَرُونَ عَلَىٰ وُجُوهِهِمْ إِلَىٰ جَهَنَّمَ أُولَٰئِكَ شَرٌّ مَّكَانًا وَأَضَلُّ سَبِيلًا)

(32. And those who disbelieve say: "Why is not the Qur'an revealed to him all at once" Thus, that We may strengthen your heart thereby. And We have revealed it to you gradually, in stages.) (33. And no example or parable do they bring, but We reveal to you the truth, and the better explanation thereof.) (34. Those who will be gathered to Hell on their faces, such will be in an evil state, and most astray from the path.)

The Reason why the Qur'an was revealed in Stages, the Refutation of the Disbelievers, and their Evil End

Allah tells us about the many objections raised by the disbelievers, their stubbornness, and how they spoke of things which were none of their concern. They said:

(لَوْلَا نُزِّلَ عَلَيْهِ الْقُرْآنُ جُمْلَةً وَاحِدَةً)

("Why is not the Qur'an revealed to him all at once") meaning, why was this Qur'an, which was revealed to him, not sent down all at one time, as the previous Books, the Tawrah, Injil, Zabur and other Divine Books Allah answered them, telling them that it was revealed in stages over twenty-three years, according to events and circumstances, and whatever rulings were needed, in order to strengthen the hearts of the believers, as He says:

(وَقُرْآنًا فَرَقْنَاهُ)

(And (it is) a Qur'an which We have divided (into parts)...) (17:106). Allah says:

(لِنُثَبِّتَ بِهِ فُؤَادَكَ وَرَتَّلْنَاهُ تَرْتِيلًا)

(that We may strengthen your heart thereby. And We have revealed it to you gradually, in stages.) Qatadah said it means: "We have explained it." `Abdur-Rahman bin Zayd bin Aslam said it means: "We have given its interpretation."

(وَلَا يَأْتُونَكَ بِمَثَلٍ)

(And no example or similitude do they bring,) This means no arguments or doubts,

(إِلَّا حِجْنَكَ بِالْحَقِّ وَأَحْسَنَ تَفْسِيرًا)

(but We reveal to you the truth, and the better explanation thereof.) They do not say anything in an attempt to oppose the truth, but We respond to them with the truth of that same matter, more clearly and more eloquently than anything they say. Abu `Abdur-Rahman An-Nasa'i recorded that Ibn `Abbas said, "The Qur'an was sent down all at once to the first heaven on Laylatul-Qadr (the Night of Power), then it was revealed over twenty years." Allah says:

(وَلَا يَأْتُونَكَ بِمَثَلٍ إِلَّا حِجْنَكَ بِالْحَقِّ وَأَحْسَنَ تَفْسِيرًا)

(And no example or similitude do they bring, but We reveal to you the truth, and the better explanation thereof.) and:

(وَقُرْءَانًا فَرَقْنَاهُ لِتَقْرَأَهُ عَلَى النَّاسِ عَلَى مُكْتٍ
وَنَزَّلْنَاهُ تَنْزِيلًا)

(And (it is) a Qur'an which We have divided (into parts), in order that you might recite it to men at intervals. And We have revealed it by stages) (17:106). Then Allah tells us about the terrible state of the disbelievers when they are raised on the Day of Resurrection and gathered into Hell:

(الَّذِينَ يُحْشَرُونَ عَلَى وُجُوهِهِمْ إِلَى جَهَنَّمَ أُولَئِكَ
شَرُّ مَكَانًا وَأَضَلُّ سَبِيلًا)

(Those who will be gathered to Hell on their faces, such will be in an evil state, and most astray from the path.) In the Sahih, it is reported from Anas that a man said, "O Messenger of Allah, how will the disbeliever be gathered on his face on the Day of Resurrection" The Prophet said:

«إِنَّ الَّذِي أَمْشَاهُ عَلَى رِجْلَيْهِ قَادِرٌ أَنْ يَمْشِيَهُ
عَلَى وَجْهِهِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ»

(The One Who caused him to walk on his two feet is able to make him walk on his face on the Day of Resurrection.)

(وَلَقَدْ ءَاتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ وَجَعَلْنَا مَعَهُ أَخَاهُ
هَارُونَ وَزِيرًا - فَقُلْنَا اذْهَبَا إِلَى الْقَوْمِ الَّذِينَ
كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا فَذَمَّرْنَاهُمْ تَذْمِيرًا - وَقَوْمَ نُوحٍ لَمَّا
كَذَّبُوا الرُّسُلَ أَغْرَقْنَاهُمْ وَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ لِلنَّاسِ ءَايَةً
وَأَعْتَدْنَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ عَذَابًا أَلِيمًا - وَعَادًا وَثَمُودًا
وَأَصْحَابَ الرَّسِّ وَقَرُونًا بَيْنَ ذَلِكَ كَثِيرًا - وَكُلًّا
ضَرَبْنَا لَهُ الْأُمْتَالَ وَكُلًّا تَبَّرْنَا تَتْبِيرًا - وَلَقَدْ أَتَوْا

عَلَى الْقَرْيَةِ الَّتِي أَمْطَرْتَ مَطَرَ السَّوْءِ أَفَلَمْ
يَكُونُوا يَرَوْنَهَا بَلْ كَانُوا لَا يَرْجُونَ نُشُوراً)

(35. And indeed We gave Musa the Scripture, and placed his brother Harun with him as a helper;) (36. And We said: "Go you both to the people who have denied Our Ayat." Then We destroyed them with utter destruction.) (37. And Nuh's people, when they denied the Messengers, We drowned them, and We made them as a sign for mankind. And We have prepared a painful torment for the wrongdoers.) (38. And (also) `Ad and Thamud, and the Dwellers of Ar-Rass, and many generations in between.) (39. And for each We put forward examples, and each We brought to utter ruin.) (40. And indeed they have passed by the town on which was rained the evil rain. Did they not then see it Nay! But they used not to expect any resurrection.)

Frightening the Idolators of Quraysh

Allah threatens the idolators who denied and opposed His Messenger Muhammad and He warns them of the punishment and painful torment He sent upon the previous nations who rejected their Messengers. Allah begins by mentioning Musa, upon him be peace, whom He sent along with his brother Harun as a helper -- i.e., as another Prophet who helped and supported him -- but Fir`awn and his chiefs denied them both:

(دَمَّرَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمُ وَلِلْكَافِرِينَ أَمْثَلُهَا)

(Allah destroyed them completely, and similar (awaits) the disbelievers) (47:10). And when the people of Nuh denied him, Allah destroyed them likewise, for whoever denies one Messenger denies all the Messengers, because there is no difference between one Messenger and another. If it had so happened that Allah had sent all His Messengers to them, they would have denied them all. Allah says:

(وَقَوْمَ نُوحٍ لَمَّا كَذَّبُوا الرُّسُلَ)

(And Nuh's people, when they denied the Messengers,) although Allah sent only Nuh to them, and he stayed among them for 950 years, calling them to Allah and warning them of His punishment,

(وَمَا ءَامَنَ مَعَهُ إِلَّا قَلِيلٌ)

(And none believed with him, except a few) (11:40). For this reason Allah drowned them all and left no one among the sons of Adam alive on earth apart from those who boarded the boat,

(وَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ لِلنَّاسِ ءَايَةً)

(and We made them a sign for mankind.) meaning a lesson to be learned. This is like the Ayah,

(إِنَّا لَمَّا طَغَا الْمَاءُ حَمَلْنَاكُمْ فِي الْجَارِيَةِ -
لِنَجْعَلَهَا لَكُمْ تَذْكِرَةً وَتَعِيَهَا أُنْثَىٰ وَعِيَهُ)

(Verily, when the water rose beyond its limits, We carried you in the boat. That We might make it a remembrance for you, and the keen ear may understand it) (69:11-12), which means: `We left for you ships that you ride upon to travel across the depths of the seas, so that you may remember the blessing of Allah towards you when He saved you from drowning, and made you the descendants of those who believed in Allah and followed His commandments.'

(وَعَادًا وَتَمُودًا وَأَصْحَابَ الرَّسِّ)

(And (also) `Ad and Thamud, and the Dwellers of Ar-Rass,) We have already discussed their story, which is referred to in more than one Surah, such as Surat Al-A`raf, and there is no need to repeat it here. As for the Dwellers of Ar-Rass, Ibn Jurayj narrated from Ibn `Abbas about the Dwellers of Ar-Rass that they were the people of one of the villages of Thamud. Ath-Thawri narrated from Abu Bukayr from `Ikrimah that Ar-Rass was a well where they buried (Rassu) their Prophet.

(وَقَرُونَا بَيْنَ ذَلِكَ كَثِيرًا)

(and many generations in between.) means nations, many more than have been mentioned here, whom We destroyed. Allah said:

(وَكُلًّا ضَرَبْنَا لَهُ الْأَمْثَالَ)

(And for each We put forward examples,) meaning, `We showed them the proof and gave them clear evidence,' as Qatadah said, "They had no excuse."

(وَكُلًّا تَبَّرْنَا تَتْبِيرًا)

(and each (of them) We brought to utter ruin.) means, `We destroyed them completely.' This is like the Ayah,

(وَكَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا مِنَ الْقُرُونِ مِنْ بَعْدِ نُوحٍ)

(And how many generations (Qurun) have We destroyed after Nuh!) (17:17). "Generations" (Qurun) here refers to nations among mankind. This is like the Ayah,

(ثُمَّ أَنشَأْنَا مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ قُرُونًا ءَاخِرِينَ)

(Then, after them, We created other generations (Qurun).) (23:42) Some defined a generation as being 120 years, or it was said that a generation was one hundred years, or eighty, or forty, etc. The most correct view is that a generation refers to nations who are one another's contemporaries, living at the same time. When they go and others succeed them, this is another generation, as it was recorded in the Two Sahih:

«خَيْرُ الْقُرُونِ قَرْنِي، ثُمَّ الَّذِينَ يَلُونَهُمْ، ثُمَّ الَّذِينَ يَلُونَهُمْ»

(The best of generations is my generation, then the one that follows it, then the one that follows that.)

(وَلَقَدْ أَتَوْا عَلَى الْقَرْيَةِ الَّتِي أَمْطَرَتْ مَطَرَ
السَّوْءِ)

(And indeed they have passed by the town on which was rained the evil rain.) refers to the town of the people of Lut, which was called Sodom, and the way in which Allah dealt with it, when He destroyed it by turning it upside down and by sending upon it the rain of stones of baked clay, as Allah says:

(وَأَمْطَرْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ مَطَرًا فَسَاءَ مَطَرُ الْمُنْذَرِينَ)

(And We rained on them a rain. And how evil was the rain of those who had been warned!) (26:176),

(وَإِنَّكُمْ لَتَمُرُّونَ عَلَيْهِمْ مُصْبِحِينَ - وَيَا لَيْلَ أَفَلَا
تَعْقِلُونَ)

(Verily, you pass by them in the morning. And at night; will you not then reflect) (37:137-138),

(وَإِنَّهَا لَبِسَبِيلٍ مُّقِيمٍ)

(And verily, they were right on the highroad.) (15:76),

(وَإِنَّهُمَا لَبِإِمَامٍ مُّبِينٍ)

(They are both on an open highway, plain to see) (15:79). Allah says:

(أَفَلَمْ يَكُونُوا يَرَوْنَهَا)

(Did they not then see it) meaning, so that they might learn a lesson from what happened to its inhabitants of punishment for denying the Messenger and going against the commands of Allah.

(بَلْ كَانُوا لَا يَرْجُونَ نُشُورًا)

(Nay! But they used not to expect any resurrection.) means, the disbelievers who passed by it did not learn any lesson, because they did not expect any resurrection, i.e., on the Day of Judgement.

(وَإِذَا رَأَوْكَ إِن يَتَّخِذُونَكَ إِلَّا هُزُوءًا أَهَذَا الَّذِي بَعَثَ اللَّهُ رَسُولًا - إِن كَادَ لِيُضِلَّنَا عَنْ ءَالِهَتِنَا لَوْلَا أَن صَبَرْنَا عَلَيْهَا وَسَوْفَ يَعْلَمُونَ حِينَ يَرَوْنَ الْعَذَابَ مَنْ أَضَلُّ سَبِيلًا - أَرَأَيْتَ مَنِ اتَّخَذَ إِلَهَهُ هَوَاهُ أَفَأَنْتَ تَكُونُ عَلَيْهِ وَكِيلًا - أَمْ تَحْسَبُ أَنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ يَسْمَعُونَ أَوْ يَعْقِلُونَ إِن هُمْ إِلَّا كَالْأَنْعَمِ بَلْ هُمْ أَضَلُّ سَبِيلًا)

(41. And when they see you, they treat you only in mockery (saying): "Is this the one whom Allah has sent as a Messenger") (42. "He would have nearly misled us from our gods, had it not been that we were patient and constant in their worship!" And they will know, when they see the torment, who it is that is most astray from the path!) (43. Have you seen him who has taken as his god his own vain desire Would you then be a guardian over him) (44. Or do you think that most of them hear or understand They are only like cattle -- nay, they are even farther astray from the path.)

How the Disbelievers mocked the Messenger

Allah tells us how the disbelievers mocked the Messenger when they saw him. This is like the Ayah,

(وَإِذَا رَأَى الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِن يَتَّخِذُونَكَ إِلَّا هُزُوءًا)

(And when the disbelievers see you, they take you not except for mockery) (21:36), which means that they tried to find faults and shortcomings in him. Here Allah says:

(وَإِذَا رَأَوْكَ إِن يَتَّخِذُونَكَ إِلَّا هُزُوءًا أَهَذَا الَّذِي بَعَثَ اللَّهُ رَسُولًا)

(And when they see you, they treat you only in mockery (saying): "Is this the one whom Allah has sent as a Messenger") i.e., they said this by way of belittling and trying to undermine him, so Allah put them in their place, and said:

(وَلَقَدْ اسْتَهْزَىٰءَ بِرُسُلٍ مِّن قَبْلِكَ)

(And indeed Messengers before you were mocked at) (6:10)

(إِن كَادَ لَيُضِلَّنَا عَنْ ءَالِهَتِنَا)

(He would have nearly misled us from our gods,) They meant: 'he nearly turned us away from worshipping idols, and he would have done so, had we not been patient and persevered in our ways.' So Allah said, warning and threatening them:

(وَسَوْفَ يَعْلَمُونَ حِينَ يَرَوْنَ الْعَذَابَ)

(And they will know, when they see the torment...)

They took Their Desires as their gods and were more astray than Cattle

Then Allah tells His Prophet that if Allah decrees that someone will be misguided and wretched, then no one can guide him except Allah, glory be to Him:

(أَرَأَيْتَ مَنِ اتَّخَذَ إِلَٰهَهُ هَوَاهُ)

(Have you seen him who has taken as his god his own vain desire) meaning, whatever he admires and sees as good in his own desires becomes his religion and his way. As Allah says:

(أَفَمَن زُيِّنَ لَهُ سُوْءَ عَمَلِهِ فَرَءَاهُ حَسَنًا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ يُضِلُّ مَن يَشَاءُ)

(Is he then, to whom the evil of his deeds is made fair seeming. So that he consider it as good. Verily, Allah sends astray whom he wills.) 35:8

(أَفَأَنْتَ تَكُونُ عَلَيْهِ وَكِيلًا)

(Would you then be a guardian over him) Ibn ` Abbas said: "During the Jahiliyyah, a man would worship a white rock for a while, then if he saw another that looked better, he would worship that and leave the first." Then Allah said:

(أَمْ تَحْسَبُ أَنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ يَسْمَعُونَ أَوْ يَعْقِلُونَ)

(Or do you think that most of them hear or understand) meaning, they are worse than grazing cattle. Cattle only do what they were created to do, but these people were created to worship Allah Alone without associating partners with Him, but they worship others with Him, even though evidence has been established against them and Messengers have been sent to them.

(أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى رَبِّكَ كَيْفَ مَدَّ الظِّلَّ وَلَوْ شَاءَ لَجَعَلَهُ سَاكِنًا ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَا الشَّمْسَ عَلَيْهِ دَلِيلًا - ثُمَّ قَبَضْنَاهُ إِلَيْنَا قَبْضًا يَسِيرًا - وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ اللَّيْلَ لِبَاسًا وَالنَّوْمَ سُبَاتًا وَجَعَلَ النَّهَارَ نُشُورًا)

(45. Have you not seen how your Lord spread the shadow. If He willed, He could have made it still -- but We have made the sun its guide.) (46. Then We withdraw it towards Ourselves -- a gradual withdrawal.) (47. And it is He Who makes the night a covering for you, and the sleep (as) a repose, and makes the day Nushur.)

Evidence of the existence of the Creator and the extent of His Power

Here Allah is explaining the evidence for His existence and His perfect power to create various things and pairs of opposites. Allah says:

(أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى رَبِّكَ كَيْفَ مَدَّ الظِّلَّ)

(Have you not seen how your Lord spread the shadow.) Ibn ` Abbas, Ibn ` Umar, Abu Al-` Aliyah, Abu Malik, Masruq, Mujahid, Sa` id bin Jubayr, An-Nakha` i, Ad-Dahhak, Al-Hasan, Qatadah, As-Suddi and others said, "This refers to the period from the beginning of the dawn until the sun rises."

(وَلَوْ شَاءَ لَجَعَلَهُ سَاكِنًا)

(If He willed, He could have made it still) meaning, immobile, never changing. This is like the Ayat:

(قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِنْ جَعَلَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكُمُ اللَّيْلَ سَرْمَدًا)

(Say : "Tell me! If Allah made the night continuous for you...") (28:71)

(ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَا الشَّمْسَ عَلَيْهِ دَلِيلًا)

(but We have made the sun its guide.) means, were it not for the sun rising, it would not be there, for a thing can only be known in contrast to its opposite. Qatadah and As-Suddi said, "The sun is a guide which follows the shade until the shade disappears. "

(ثُمَّ قَبَضْنَاهُ إِلَيْنَا قَبْضًا يَسِيرًا)

(Then We withdraw it towards Ourselves -- a gradual withdrawal.) This refers to the shade.

(يَسِيرًا)

(gradual) meaning slowly. As-Suddi said: "A gentle, concealed, withdrawal until there is no shade left on earth except under a roof or a tree, and the sun is shining on whatever is above it."

(قَبْضًا يَسِيرًا)

(a gradual withdrawal.) Ayyub bin Musa said: "Little by little.

(وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ اللَّيْلَ لِبَاسًا)

(And it is He Who makes the night a covering for you,) It covers and conceals all things. This is like the Ayah:

(وَاللَّيْلَ إِذَا يَغْشَى)

(By the night as it envelops) (92:1).

(وَالنَّوْمَ سُبَاتًا)

(and the sleep a repose,) means, a halt to movement so that bodies may rest. For the faculties and limbs get tired from their constant movement during the day when one goes out to earn a living. When night comes, and it becomes quiet, they stop moving, and rest; so sleep provides a rejuvenation for both the body and the soul.

(وَجَعَلَ النَّهَارَ نُشُورًا)

(and makes the day Nushur) meaning, people get up and go out to earn a living and attend to their business. This is like the Ayah:

(وَمِنْ رَّحْمَتِهِ جَعَلَ لَكُمُ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ لِتَسْكُنُوا فِيهِ وَلِتَبْتَغُوا مِنْ فَضْلِهِ)

(It is out of His mercy that He has made for you the night and the day that you may rest therein and that you may seek of His bounty...) (28:73)

(وَهُوَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ الرِّيحَ بُشْرَىٰ بَيْنَ يَدَيْ رَحْمَتِهِ وَأَنْزَلْنَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً طَهُورًا)

(لِّنُحْيِيَ بِهِ بَلْدَةً مَّيْتًا وَنُسْقِيَهُ مِمَّا خَلَقْنَا أَنْعَمًا وَأُنَاسِيًّا كَثِيرًا - وَلَقَدْ صَرَّفْنَاهُ بَيْنَهُمْ لِيَذَّكَّرُوا فَأَبَىٰ أَكْثَرُ النَّاسِ إِلَّا كُفُورًا)

(48. And it is He Who sends the winds as heralds of glad tidings, going before His mercy; and We send down pure water from the sky,) (49. That We may give life thereby to a dead land, and We give to drink thereof many of the cattle and men that We have created.) (50. And indeed We have distributed it among them in order that they may remember the grace of Allah, but most men refuse (out of) gratitude.)

This is also part of His complete power and supreme authority:

Allah sends the winds as heralds of glad tidings, i.e., they bring the clouds behind them. The winds are of many different types, depending on the purpose for which they are sent. Some of them form the clouds, others carry the clouds or drive them, and others come ahead of the clouds as heralds announcing their coming. Some of them come before that to stir up the earth, and some of them fertilize or "seed" the clouds to make it rain. Allah says:

(وَأَنْزَلْنَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً طَهُورًا)

(and We send down pure water from the sky), meaning, as a means of purifying it. Abu Sa`id said, "It was said: "O Messenger of Allah, can we perform Wudu' with the water of the well of Buda`ah For it is a well in which rubbish and the flesh of dogs are thrown. He said:

«إِنَّ الْمَاءَ طَهُورٌ لَا يُنَجِّسُهُ شَيْءٌ»

(Water is pure and nothing makes it impure.) This was recorded by Ash-Shafi`i and Ahmad, who graded it Sahih, and also by Abu Dawud and At-Tirmidhi, who graded it Hasan, and by An-Nasa'i. His saying:

(الْأُحْيَىٰ بِهِ بَلَدَةٌ مَيِّتًا)

(That We may give life thereby to a dead land,) means, a land that waited a long time for rain. It is devoid of vegetation or anything at all. When the rain comes to it, it becomes alive and its hills are covered with all kinds of colorful flowers, as Allah says:

(فَإِذَا أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْهَا الْمَاءَ اهْتَزَّتْ وَرَبَتْ)

(but when We send down water to it, it is stirred to life and growth...) (41:39). His saying:

(وَنُسْقِيهِ مِمَّا خَلَقْنَا أَنْعَمًا وَأَنْاسِيَ كَثِيرًا)

(and We give to drink thereof many of the cattle and men that We had created.) means, so that animals such as cattle can drink from it, and people who are in desperate need of water can drink from it and water their crops and fruits. This is like the Ayah:

(وَهُوَ الَّذِي يُنَزِّلُ الْغَيْثَ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا قَنَطُوا)

(And He it is Who sends down the rain after they have despaired,) (42:28)

(فَانظُرْ إِلَىٰ ءَاثَرِ رَحْمَةِ اللَّهِ كَيْفَ يُحْيِي الْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا)

(Look then at the effects of Allah's mercy, how He revives the earth after its death.) (30:50)
His saying:

(وَلَقَدْ صَرَّفْنَاهُ بَيْنَهُمْ لِيَذَّكَّرُوا)

(And indeed We have distributed it (rain or water) amongst them in order that they may remember) means, `We cause rain to fall on this land and not on that, and We cause the clouds to pass over one land and go to another, where We cause sufficient rain to fall so that its people have plenty, but not one drop falls on the first land.' There is a reason and great wisdom behind this. Ibn `Abbas and Ibn Mas`ud, may Allah be pleased with them said: "One year does not have more rain than another, but Allah distributes the rain as He wills. Then he recited this Ayah:

وَلَقَدْ صَرَّفْنَاهُ بَيْنَهُمْ لِيَذَكَّرُوا فَأَبَى أَكْثَرُ النَّاسِ
إِلَّا كُفُورًا)

(And indeed We have distributed it (rain or water) amongst them in order that they may remember the grace of Allah, but most men refuse (out of) ingratitude.)" meaning, so that they may be reminded, when Allah brings the dead earth back to life, that He is able to bring the dead and dry bones back to life, or that those from whom rain is withheld are suffering this because of some sin they have committed, so that they may give it up.

فَأَبَى أَكْثَرُ النَّاسِ إِلَّا كُفُورًا)

(but most men refuse (out of) ingratitude.) `Ikrimah said, "This refers to those who say that rain comes because of such and such a star." This view of `Ikrimah is similar to the authentic Hadith recorded in Sahih Muslim; one day after a night's rain, the Messenger of Allah said to his Companions:

«أَتَدْرُونَ مَاذَا قَالَ رَبُّكُمْ؟»

(Do you know what your Lord says) They said: "Allah and His Messenger know best." He said:

«قَالَ: أَصْبَحَ مِنْ عِبَادِي مُؤْمِنٌ بِي وَكَافِرٌ، فَأَمَّا
مَنْ قَالَ: مُطِرْنَا بِفَضْلِ اللَّهِ وَرَحْمَتِهِ فَذَٰكَ مُؤْمِنٌ
بِي، كَافِرٌ بِالْكَوْكَبِ، وَأَمَّا مَنْ قَالَ: مُطِرْنَا بِنَوْءٍ
كَذَا وَكَذَا، فَذَٰكَ كَافِرٌ بِي، مُؤْمِنٌ بِالْكَوْكَبِ»

(He says: "This morning some of My servants became believers in Me, and some became disbelievers. As for the one who said, `We have been given rain by the mercy and grace of Allah,' he is a believer in Me and a disbeliever in the stars. As for the one who said, `We have been given rain by such and such a star,' he is a disbeliever in Me and a believer in the stars.")

(وَلَوْ شِئْنَا لَبَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ قَرْيَةٍ نَذِيرًا - فَلَا تُطِيعُ
 الْكَافِرِينَ وَجَاهِدْهُمْ بِهِ جِهَادًا كَبِيرًا - وَهُوَ الَّذِي
 مَرَجَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ هَذَا عَذْبٌ فُرَاتٌ وَهَذَا مِلْحٌ أُجَاجٌ
 وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَهُمَا بَرْزَخًا وَحِجْرًا مَّحْجُورًا - وَهُوَ
 الَّذِي خَلَقَ مِنَ الْمَاءِ بَشَرًا فَجَعَلَهُ نَسَبًا وَصِهْرًا
 وَكَانَ رَبُّكَ قَدِيرًا)

(51. And had We willed, We would have raised a warner in every town.) (52. So obey not the disbelievers, but strive against them with the utmost endeavor with it.) (53. And it is He Who has let free the two seas, this is palatable and sweet, and that is salty and bitter; and He has set a barrier and a complete partition between them.) (54. And it is He Who has created man from water, and has appointed for him kindred by blood, and kindred by marriage. And your Lord is Ever All-Powerful to do what He wills.)

The universality of the Prophet's Message, how He was supported in His Mission and Allah's Blessings to Mankind

Allah says:

(وَلَوْ شِئْنَا لَبَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ قَرْيَةٍ نَذِيرًا)

(And had We willed, We would have raised a warner in every town.) ` Calling them to Allah, but We have singled you out, O Muhammad, to be sent to all the people of earth, and We have commanded you to convey the Qur'an,'

(لَأُنذِرَكُمْ بِهِ وَمَنْ بَلَغَ)

(that I may therewith warn you and whomsoever it may reach) (6:19).

(وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِهِ مِنَ الْأَحْزَابِ قَالَنَّارُ مَوْعِدُهُ)

(but those of the sects that reject it, the Fire will be their promised meeting place) (11:17).

(لَنُنذِرَ أُمَّ الْقُرَى وَمَنْ حَوْلَهَا)

(that you may warn the Mother of the Towns and all around it) (42:7).

(قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ جَمِيعًا)

(Say: "O mankind! Verily, I am sent to you all as the Messenger of Allah...") (7:158). In the Two Sahihs (it is reported that the Prophet said:)

«بُعِثْتُ إِلَى الْأَحْمَرِ وَالْأَسْوَدِ»

(I have been sent to the red and the black.) And:

«وَكَانَ النَّبِيُّ يُبْعَثُ إِلَى قَوْمِهِ خَاصَّةً، وَبُعِثْتُ إِلَى النَّاسِ عَامَّةً»

(...A Prophet would be sent to his own people, but I have been sent to all of mankind.) Allah says:

(فَلَا تُطِعِ الْكَافِرِينَ وَجَاهِدْهُمْ بِهِ)

(So obey not the disbelievers, but strive hard against them with it.) meaning, with the Qur'an. This was the view of Ibn ` Abbas.

(جِهَادًا كَبِيرًا)

(with the utmost endeavour.) This is like the Ayah,

(يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ جَاهِدِ الْكُفْرَ وَالْمُنَافِقِينَ)

(O Prophet! Strive hard against the disbelievers and the hypocrites,) (9:73)

(وَهُوَ الَّذِي مَرَجَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ هَذَا عَذْبٌ فُرَاتٌ وَهَذَا مِلْحٌ أُجَاجٌ)

(And it is He Who has let free the two seas, this is palatable and sweet, and that is salty and bitter;) means, He has created the two kinds of water, sweet and salty. The sweet water is like that in rivers, springs and wells, which is fresh, sweet, palatable water. This was the view of Ibn Jurayj and of Ibn Jarir, and this is the meaning without a doubt, for nowhere in creation is there a sea which is fresh and sweet. Allah has told us about reality so that His servants may realize His blessings to them and give thanks to Him. The sweet water is that which flows

amidst people. Allah has created them out of His creatures according to their needs; rivers and springs in every land, according to what they need for themselves and their lands.

(وَهَذَا مِلْحٌ أُجَاجٌ)

(and that is salty and bitter;) meaning that it is salty, bitter and not easy to swallow. This is like the seas that are known in the east and the west, the Atlantic Ocean and the Straits that lead to it, the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea, the Persian Gulf, the China Sea, the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea, the Black Sea and so on, all the seas that are stable and do not flow, but they swell and surge in the winter and when the winds are strong, and they have tides that ebb and flow. At the beginning of each month the tides ebb and flood, and when the month starts to wane they retreat until they go back to where they started. When the crescent of the following month appears, the tide begins to ebb again until the fourteenth of the month, then it decreases. Allah, may He be glorified, the One Whose power is absolute, has set these laws in motion, so all of these seas are stationary, and He has made their water salty lest the air turn putrid because of them and the whole earth turn rotten as a result, and lest the earth spoil because of the animals dying on it. Because its water is salty, its air is healthy and its dead are good (to eat), hence when the Messenger of Allah was asked whether sea water can be used for Wudu', he said:

«هُوَ الطَّهْرُ مَأْوُهُ، الْحِلُّ مَيْتَتُهُ»

(Its water is pure and its dead are lawful.) This was recorded by Malik, Ash-Shafi'i and Ahmad, and by the scholars of Sunan with a good)Jayyid(chain of narration.

(وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَهُمَا بَرْزَخاً وَحِجْراً)

(and He has set a barrier and a complete partition between them.) meaning, between the sweet water and the saltwater.

(بَرْزَخاً)

(a barrier) means a partition, which is dry land.

(وَحِجْراً مَّحْجُوراً)

(and a complete partition) means, a barrier, to prevent one of them from reaching the other. This is like the Ayat:

(مَرَجَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ يَلْتَقِيَانِ - بَيْنَهُمَا بَرْزَخٌ لَّا يَبْغِيَانِ
فَبِأَيِّ آلَاءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ)

(He has let loose the two seas meeting together. Between them is a barrier which none of them can transgress. Then which of the blessings of your Lord will you both deny) (55:19-21)

(أَمَّنْ جَعَلَ الْأَرْضَ قَرَاراً وَجَعَلَ خِلَالَهَا أَنْهَاراً
وَجَعَلَ لَهَا رَوَاسِي وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ حَاجِزاً
أَعْلَهُ مَعَ اللَّهِ بَلْ أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ)

(Is not He Who has made the earth as a fixed abode, and has placed rivers in its midst, and placed firm mountains therein, and set a barrier between the two seas Is there any god with Allah Nay, but most of them know not!) (27:61)

(وَهُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ مِنَ الْمَاءِ بَشَرًا)

(And it is He Who has created man from water,) means, He created man from a weak Nutfah, then gave him shape and formed him, and completed his form, male and female, as He willed.

(فَجَعَلَهُ نَسَبًا وَصِهْرًا)

(and has appointed for him kindred by blood, and kindred by marriage.) in the beginning, he is someone's child, then he gets married and becomes a son-in-law, then he himself has sons-in-law and other relatives through marriage. All of this comes from a despised liquid, Allah says:

(وَكَانَ رَبُّكَ قَدِيرًا)

(And your Lord is Ever All-Powerful to do what He wills.)

(وَيَعْبُدُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَا يَنْفَعُهُمْ وَلَا
يَضُرُّهُمْ وَكَانَ الْكَفْرُ عَلَى رَبِّهِ ظَهِيرًا - وَمَا
أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا مُبَشِّرًا وَنَذِيرًا - قُلْ مَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ
مِنْ أَجْرٍ إِلَّا مَنْ شَاءَ أَنْ يَتَّخِذَ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِ سَبِيلًا -
وَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى الْحَيِّ الَّذِي لَا يَمُوتُ وَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِهِ
وَكَفَىٰ بِهِ بِذُنُوبِ عِبَادِهِ خَبِيرًا - الَّذِي خَلَقَ

السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا فِي سِتَّةِ أَيَّامٍ ثُمَّ اسْتَوَى عَلَى الْعَرْشِ الرَّحْمَنُ فَاسْأَلْ بِهِ خَبيراً - وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ اسْجُدُوا لِلرَّحْمَنِ قَالُوا وَمَا الرَّحْمَنُ أَنَسْجُدُ لِمَا تَأْمُرُنَا وَزَادَهُمْ نُفُوراً)

(55. And they worship besides Allah, that which can neither profit them nor harm them; and the disbeliever is ever a helper against his Lord.) (56. And We have sent you only as a bearer of good news and a warner.) (57. Say: "No reward do I ask of you for this, save that whosoever wills may take a path to his Lord.") (58. And put your trust in the Ever Living One Who dies not, and glorify His praises, and sufficient is He as the All-Knower of the sins of His servants.) (59. Who created the heavens and the earth and all that is between them in six Days. Then He rose over (Istawa) the Throne. The Most Gracious! Ask Him, as He is the All-Knower.) (60. And when it is said to them: "Prostrate yourselves to Ar-Rahman!" They say: "And what is Ar-Rahman Shall we fall down in prostration to that which you command us" And it increases in them only aversion.)

The Ignorance of the Idolators

Allah tells us how ignorant the idolators are; instead of worshipping Allah, they worship idols which do not possess the power either to harm or benefit. They do this with no evidence or proof; the only thing that led them to do this was their own whims and desires. So they take these idols as protectors and fight for their sake, and they oppose Allah and His Messenger and the believers for their sake. Similarly Allah says:

(وَكَانَ الْكَافِرُ عَلَى رَبِّهِ ظَهِيراً)

(and the disbeliever is ever a helper against his Lord.) meaning, he is a supporter of Shaytan against the party of Allah, but the party of Allah are the ones who will prevail, as Allah says:

(وَاتَّخَذُوا مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ آلِهَةً لَّعَلَّهُمْ يُنصَرُونَ - لَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ نَصْرَهُمْ وَهُمْ لَهُمْ جُنْدٌ مُّحْضَرُونَ)

(And they have taken besides Allah gods, hoping that they might be helped. They cannot help them, but they will be brought forward as a troop against those who worshipped them.) (36:74-75) meaning, the gods which they worshipped instead of Allah cannot help them. These ignorant people are troops for the idols and are ready to fight for their sake and protect their sanctuaries, but in the end the victory will be for Allah and His Messenger and the believers, in this world and the Hereafter.

(وَكَانَ الْكَافِرُ عَلَى رَبِّهِ ظَهِيراً)

(and the disbeliever is ever a helper against his Lord.) Mujahid said: "He supports and helps the Shaytan in disobedience towards Allah.

The Messenger brings Glad Tidings and Warnings

Then Allah tells His Messenger:

(وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا مُبَشِّرًا وَنَذِيرًا)

(And We have sent you only as a bearer of good news and a warner.) meaning, a bringer of good news to the believers, a warner to the disbelievers; bringing good news of Paradise to those who obey Allah, and bringing warnings of a dreadful punishment for those who go against the commandments of Allah.

(قُلْ مَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ أَجْرٍ)

(Say: "No reward do I ask of you for this...") for conveying this message and this warning, I do not ask for any reward from your wealth; I am only doing this for the sake of Allah, may He be exalted.'

(لِمَنْ شَاءَ مِنْكُمْ أَنْ يَسْتَقِيمَ)

(To whomsoever among you who wills to walk straight) (81:28).

(إِلَّا مَنْ شَاءَ أَنْ يَتَّخِذَ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِ سَبِيلًا)

(save that whosoever wills, may take a path to his Lord.) means, a way and a methodology to be followed.

The Command to the Messenger to put his Trust in Allah, and some of His Qualities

Then Allah says:

(وَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى الْحَيِّ الَّذِي لَا يَمُوتُ)

(And put your trust in the Ever Living One Who dies not,) meaning, in all your affairs, put your trust in Allah, the Ever-Living Who never dies, the One Who

(الْأَوَّلُ وَالْآخِرُ وَالظَّهَرُ وَالْبَاطِنُ وَهُوَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ)

(is the First and the Last, the Most High and the Most Near. And He is the All-Knower of everything) (57:3). The Eternal, Ever-Lasting, Ever-Living, Self-Sufficient One, the Lord and Sovereign of all things, the One to Whom you should always turn. Allah is the One in Whom you should put your trust and to Whom you should turn for refuge, He will be sufficient for you and will be your helper and supporter, and will cause you to prevail. As Allah says:

(يَا أَيُّهَا الرَّسُولُ بَلِّغْ مَا أُنْزِلَ إِلَيْكَ مِنْ رَبِّكَ وَإِنْ لَمْ تَفْعَلْ فَمَا بَلَّغْتَ رِسَالَتَهُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْصِمُكَ مِنَ النَّاسِ)

(O Messenger! Proclaim which has been sent down to you from your Lord. And if you do not, then you have not conveyed His Message. Allah will protect you from mankind) (5:67).

(وَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِهِ)

(and glorify His praises,) means, combine praising Him with glorifying Him. Hence the Messenger of Allah used to say:

«سُبْحَانَكَ اللَّهُمَّ رَبَّنَا وَبِحَمْدِكَ»

(Glory be to You, O Allah, and with Your praise.) So the Ayah means: be sincere in worshipping Him and putting your trust in Him. This is like the Ayat:

(رَبُّ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ فَاتَّخِذْهُ وَكِيلًا)

(The Lord of the east and the west; there is no God but He. So take Him as a Trustee.) (73:9)

(فَاعْبُدْهُ وَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَيْهِ)

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

(قُلْ هُوَ الرَّحْمَنُ ءَامَنَّا بِهِ وَعَلَيْهِ تَوَكَّلْنَا)

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

(وَكَفَىٰ بِهِ يَدُنُوبٍ عِبَادِهِ خَيْرًا)

(and sufficient is He as the All-Knower of the sins of His servants) means, by His perfect knowledge nothing is hidden from Him nor can anything be hidden from Him, not even a speck of dust's weight.

(الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ)

(Who created the heavens and the earth...) means, He is the Ever-Living Who never dies, He is the Creator, Sustainer and Sovereign of all things, Who by His might and power created the seven heavens with their vast height and width, and the seven earths with their great depths and density.

(فِي سِتَّةِ أَيَّامٍ ثُمَّ اسْتَوَىٰ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ)

(in six Days. Then He rose over the Throne.) means, He is running all affairs and He decrees according to the truth, and He is the best of those who decide.

(ثُمَّ اسْتَوَىٰ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ الرَّحْمَنُ فَاسْأَلْ بِهِ خَيْرًا)

(Then He rose over (Istawa) the Throne. The Most Gracious! Ask Him, as He is the All-Knower.) meaning, find out about Him from one who knows most about Him, and follow him and take him as your example. It is known that there is no one who knows more about Allah than His servant and Messenger Muhammad , the absolute leader of the sons of Adam in this world and the Hereafter, who does not speak of his own desire, but conveys revelation revealed to him. What he says is true, and he is the leader whose decision counts; when there is a dispute, people are obliged to refer to him, and whatever is in accordance with his words and deeds is right, and whatever goes against them should be rejected no matter who says or does it. Allah says:

(فَإِنْ تَنَازَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ)

((And) if you differ in anything among yourselves...) (4:59).

(وَمَا اخْتَلَفْتُمْ فِيهِ مِنْ شَيْءٍ فَحُكْمُهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ)

(And in whatsoever you differ, the decision thereof is with Allah) (42:10).

(وَتَمَّتْ كَلِمَةُ رَبِّكَ صِدْقًا وَعَدْلًا)

(And the Word of your Lord has been fulfilled in truth and in justice) (6: 115). meaning, He has spoken the truth and is fair and just in His commands and prohibitions. Allah says here:

(فَاسْأَلْ بِهِ خَيْرًا)

(Ask Him, as He is Al-Knower.)

Condemnation of the Idolators

Then Allah rebukes the idolators who prostrate to idols and rivals instead of Allah:

(وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ اسْجُدُوا لِلرَّحْمَنِ قَالُوا وَمَا الرَّحْمَنُ)

(And when it is said to them: "Prostrate yourselves to Ar-Rahman!" They say: "And what is Ar-Rahman") meaning: we do not know Ar-Rahman. They did not like to call Allah by His Name Ar-Rahman (the Most Gracious), as they objected on the day of (the treaty of) Al-Hudaybiyyah, when the Prophet told the scribe:

«اَكْتُبْ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ»

(Write: "In the Name of Allah, Ar-Rahman (the Most Gracious), Ar-Rahim (the Most Merciful).") They said, "We do not know Ar-Rahman or Ar-Rahim. Write what you used to write: `Bismika Allahumma (in Your Name, O Allah).'" So Allah revealed the words:

(قُلْ اَدْعُوا اللَّهَ أَوْ اَدْعُوا الرَّحْمَنَ أَيًّا مَا تَدْعُوا فَلَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَى)

(Say: "Invoke Allah or invoke Ar-Rahman, by whatever name you invoke Him (it is the same), for to Him belong the Best Names) (17:110). meaning, He is Allah and He is the Most Gracious. And in this Ayah, Allah said:

(وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ اسْجُدُوا لِلرَّحْمَنِ قَالُوا وَمَا الرَّحْمَنُ)

(And when it is said to them: "Prostrate yourselves to Ar-Rahman!" They say: "And what is the Ar-Rahman") meaning: we do not know or approve of this Name.

(أَنسَجِدُ لِمَا تَأْمُرُنَا)

(Shall we fall down in prostration to that which you command us) means, "Just because you tell us to"

(وَزَادَهُمْ نُفُورًا)

(And it increases in them only aversion.) As for the believers, they worship Allah Who is the Most Gracious, Most Merciful, and they attribute divinity to Him Alone and prostrate to Him. The scholars, agree that it is allowed and approved for the reader and the listener to prostrate when he reaches this mention of prostration in Surat Al-Furqan, and Allah knows best.

(تَبَارَكَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ فِي السَّمَاءِ بُرُوجًا وَجَعَلَ فِيهَا سِرَاجًا وَقَمَرًا مُنِيرًا - وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ خِلْفَةً لِّمَنۢ أَرَادَ أَن يَذَّكَّرَ أَوْ أَرَادَ شُكُورًا)

(61. Blessed be He Who has placed in the heaven Al-Buruj, and has placed therein a great lamp, and a moon giving light.) (62. And He it is Who has put the night and the day in succession (Khilfatun), for such who desires to remember or desires to show his gratitude.)

Mentioning the Might and Power of Allah

Here Allah glorifies Himself and praises the beauty He created in the heavens of Al-Buruj, the giant stars, according to the view of Mujahid, Sa'id bin Jubayr, Abu Salih, Al-Hasan and Qatadah. This is like the Ayah,

(وَلَقَدْ زَيَّنَّا السَّمَاءَ الدُّنْيَا بِمَصَابِيحَ)

(And indeed We have adorned the nearest heaven with lamps) (67:5). Allah says:

(تَبَارَكَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ فِي السَّمَاءِ بُرُوجًا وَجَعَلَ فِيهَا سِرَاجًا)

(Blessed be He Who has placed in the heaven Al-Buruj, and has placed therein a great lamp,) which is the sun which shines like a lamp, as Allah says:

(وَجَعَلْنَا سِرَاجًا وَهَّاجًا)

(And We have made (therein) a shining lamp) (78:13).

(وَقَمَرًا مُنِيرًا)

(and a moon giving light.) means, shining and illuminated by the light of something else, different from the light of the sun, as Allah says:

(هُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ الشَّمْسَ ضِيَاءً وَالْقَمَرَ نُورًا)

(It is He Who made the sun a shining thing and the moon as a light) (10:5). And Allah tells us that Nuh, peace be upon him, said to his people:

(أَلَمْ تَرَوْا كَيْفَ خَلَقَ اللَّهُ سَبْعَ سَمَوَاتٍ طِبَاقًا - وَجَعَلَ الْقَمَرَ فِيهِنَّ نُورًا وَجَعَلَ الشَّمْسَ سِرَاجًا)

(See you not how Allah has created the seven heavens one above another And has made the moon a light therein, and made the sun a lamp) (71:15-16). Then Allah says:

(وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ خِلْفَةً)

(And He it is Who has put the night and the day in succession (Khilfatan),) meaning, each one comes after the other, in a never-ending alternation. When one goes the other comes, and vice versa, as Allah says:

(وَسَخَّرَ لَكُمُ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ دَائِبَيْنِ)

(And He has made the sun and the moon, both constantly pursuing their courses) (14:33).

(يُعْشَى اللَّيْلَ النَّهَارَ يَطْلُبُهُ حَثِيثًا)

(He brings the night as a cover over the day, seeking it rapidly) (7:54).

(لَا الشَّمْسُ يَنْبَغِي لَهَا أَنْ تُدْرِكَ الْقَمَرَ)

(It is not for the sun to overtake the moon) (36:40).

(لَمَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يَذْكُرَ أَوْ أَرَادَ شُكُورًا)

(for such who desires to remember or desires to show his gratitude.) means, He has caused them both to follow one another to show the times when His servants should worship Him. So whoever misses an act of worship during the night can make it up during the day, and whoever misses an act of worship during the day can make it up during the night. It was recorded in a Sahih Hadith:

«إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ يَبْسُطُ يَدَهُ بِاللَّيْلِ لِيُتُوبَ مُسِيءُ النَّهَارِ، وَيَبْسُطُ يَدَهُ بِالنَّهَارِ لِيُتُوبَ مُسِيءُ اللَّيْلِ»

(Allah spreads forth His Hand at night for the one who has done evil during the day to repent, and He spreads forth His Hand during the day for the one who has done evil during the night to repent.) Mujahid and Qatadah said: "Khilfatan means different, i.e., because one is dark and the other is light."

(وَعِبَادُ الرَّحْمَنِ الَّذِينَ يَمْشُونَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ هَوْنًا وَإِذَا خَاطَبَهُمُ الْجَاهِلُونَ قَالُوا سَلَامًا - وَالَّذِينَ يَبِيتُونَ لِرَبِّهِمْ سُجَّدًا وَقِيَمًا - وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا اصْرِفْ عَنَّا عَذَابَ جَهَنَّمَ إِنَّ عَذَابَهَا كَانَ غَرَامًا - إِنَّهَا سَاءَتْ مُسْتَقَرًّا وَمُقَامًا - وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا أَنْفَقُوا لَمْ يُسْرِفُوا وَلَمْ يَقْتُرُوا وَكَانَ بَيْنَ ذَلِكَ قَوَامًا)

(63. And the servants of the Most Gracious are those who walk on the earth Hawna, and when the foolish address them they say; "Salama.") (64. And those who spend the night in worship of

their Lord, prostrate and standing.) (65. And those who say: "Our Lord! Avert from us the torment of Hell. Verily, its torment is ever an inseparable, permanent punishment.") (66. Evil indeed it is as an abode and as a place to rest in.) (67. And those who, when they spend, are neither extravagant nor stingy, but are in a just balance between them.)

Attributes of the Servants of the Most Gracious

These are the attributes of the believing servants of Allah,

(الَّذِينَ يَمْشُونَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ هَوْنًا)

(those who walk on the earth Hawna,) meaning that they walk with dignity and humility, not with arrogance and pride. This is like the Ayah:

(وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَحًا)

(And walk not on the earth with conceit and arrogance...) (17:37). So these people do not walk with conceit or arrogance or pride. This does not mean that they should walk like sick people, making a show of their humility, for the leader of the sons of Adam (the Prophet) used to walk as if he was coming downhill, and as if the earth were folded up beneath him. What is meant here by Hawn is serenity and dignity, as the Messenger of Allah said:

«إِذَا أَتَيْتُمُ الصَّلَاةَ فَلَا تَأْتُوهَا وَأَنْتُمْ تَسْعَوْنَ،
وَأْتُوهَا وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّكِينَةُ فَمَا أَدْرَكْتُمْ مِنْهَا فَصَلُّوا،
وَمَا قَاتَكُمُ فَأْتِمُوا»

(When you come to the prayer, do not come rushing in haste. Come calmly and with tranquility, and whatever you catch up with, pray, and whatever you miss, make it up.)

(وَإِذَا خَاطَبَهُمُ الْجَاهِلُونَ قَالُوا سَلَامًا)

(and when the foolish address them they say: "Salama.") If the ignorant people insult them with bad words, they do not respond in kind, but they forgive and overlook, and say nothing but good words. This is what the Messenger of Allah did: the more ignorant the people, the more patient he would be. This is as Allah says:

(وَإِذَا سَمِعُوا اللَّغْوَ أَعْرَضُوا عَنْهُ)

(And when they hear Al-Laghwa (evil or vain talk), they withdraw from it) (28:55). Then Allah says that their nights are the best of nights, as He says:

(وَالَّذِينَ يَبِيتُونَ لِرَبِّهِمْ سُجَّدًا وَقِيَمًا)

(And those who spend the night in worship of their Lord, prostrate and standing.) meaning, worshipping and obeying Him. This is like the Ayat:

(كَانُوا قَلِيلًا مِّنَ اللَّيْلِ مَا يَهْجَعُونَ - وَيَالِ الْأَسْحَرِ
هُمْ يَسْتَغْفِرُونَ)

(They used to sleep but little by night. And in the hours before dawn, they were asking for forgiveness) (51:17-18).

(تَتَجَافَى جُنُوبُهُمْ عَنِ الْمَضَاجِعِ)

(Their sides forsake their beds...) (32:16).

(أَمَّنْ هُوَ قَانِتٌ ءَانَاءَ اللَّيْلِ سَاجِدًا وَقَائِمًا يَحْذَرُ
الْآخِرَةَ وَيَرْجُوا رَحْمَةَ رَبِّهِ)

(Is one who is obedient to Allah, prostrating himself or standing during the hours of the night, fearing the Hereafter and hoping for the mercy of his Lord...) (39:9). Allah says:

(وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا اصْرِفْ عَنَّا عَذَابَ جَهَنَّمَ
إِنَّ عَذَابَهَا كَانَ غَرَامًا)

(And those who say: "Our Lord! Avert from us the torment of Hell. Verily, its torment is ever an inseparable punishment.") meaning, ever-present and never ending. Al-Hasan said concerning the Ayah,

(إِنَّ عَذَابَهَا كَانَ غَرَامًا)

(Verily, its torment is ever an inseparable, permanent punishment.) Everything that strikes the son of Adam, then disappears, does not constitute an inseparable, permanent punishment. The inseparable, permanent punishment is that which lasts as long as heaven and earth. This was also the view of Sulayman At-Taymi.

(إِنَّهَا سَاءَتْ مُسْتَقَرًّا وَمُقَامًا)

(Evil indeed it is as an abode and as a place to rest in.) means, how evil it looks as a place to dwell and how evil it is as a place to rest.

وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا أَنْفَقُوا لَمْ يُسْرِفُوا وَلَمْ يَقْتُرُوا)

(And those who, when they spend, are neither extravagant nor stingy...) They are not extravagant, spending more than they need, nor are they miserly towards their families, not spending enough on their needs. But they follow the best and fairest way. The best of matters are those which are moderate, neither one extreme nor the other.

(وَكَانَ بَيْنَ ذَلِكَ قَوَامًا)

(but are in a just balance between them.) This is like the Ayah,

وَلَا تَجْعَلْ يَدَكَ مَغْلُولَةً إِلَىٰ عُنُقِكَ وَلَا تَبْسُطْهَا
كُلَّ الْبَسْطِ)

(And let not your hand be tied to your neck, nor stretch it forth to its utmost reach.)(17:29)

وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَدْعُونَ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَهًا آخَرَ وَلَا
يَقْتُلُونَ النَّفْسَ الَّتِي حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَلَا
يَزْنُونَ وَمَنْ يَفْعَلْ ذَلِكَ يَلْقَ أَثَامًا - يُضَاعَفْ لَهُ
الْعَذَابُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ وَيَخَذُ فِيهِ مُهَانًا - إِلَّا مَنْ
تَابَ وَءَامَنَ وَعَمِلَ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا فَأُولَٰئِكَ يُبَدِّلُ
اللَّهُ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ حَسَنَاتٍ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا -
وَمَنْ تَابَ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَإِنَّهُ يَتُوبُ إِلَى اللَّهِ
مَتَابًا)

(68. And those who invoke not any other god along with Allah, nor kill such person as Allah has forbidden, except for just cause, nor commit illegal sexual intercourse -- and whoever does this shall receive Athama.) (69. The torment will be doubled for him on the Day of Resurrection, and he will abide therein in disgrace;) (70. Except those who repent and believe, and do righteous deeds; for those, Allah will change their sins into good deeds, and Allah is Oft-

Forgiving, Most Merciful.) (71. And whosoever repents and does righteous good deeds; then indeed he has repented to Allah Mataba.)

The Attributes of the Servants of the Most Gracious include avoiding Shirk, Murder and Zina

Imam Ahmad recorded that `Abdullah bin Mas`ud said, "The Messenger of Allah was asked which sin is the most serious" He said:

«أَنْ تَجْعَلَ لِلَّهِ نِدًّا وَهُوَ خَلَقَكَ»

(That you appoint a rival to Allah when He has created you.) He asked, "Then what" He said:

«أَنْ تَقْتُلَ وَلَدَكَ خَشْيَةً أَنْ يَطْعَمَ مَعَكَ»

(That you kill your child for fear that he may eat with you.) He said, "Then what" He said:

«أَنْ تُزَانِيَ حَايِلَةَ جَارِكَ»

(That you commit adultery with your neighbor's wife.) `Abdullah said, "Then Allah revealed, confirming that:

(وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَدْعُونَ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَهًا آخَرَ)

(And those who invoke not any other god along with Allah....)" This was also recorded by An-Nasa'i, and by Al-Bukhari and Muslim. It was narrated that Sa'id bin Jubayr heard Ibn `Abbas saying that some of the people of Shirk killed a great deal and committed Zina a great deal, then they came to Muhammad and said: "What you are saying and calling people to is good, if only you would tell us that there is a way to expiate for what we have done." Then the Ayah:

(وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَدْعُونَ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَهًا آخَرَ)

(And those who invoke not any other god along with Allah...) was revealed, as was the Ayah,

(قُلْ يِعْبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنْفُسِهِمْ)

(Say: "O My servants who have transgressed against themselves!") (39:53).

(وَمَنْ يَفْعَلْ ذَلِكَ يَلِقَ أَثَامًا)

(and whoever does this shall receive Athama.) It was recorded that `Abdullah bin `Amr said: "Athama is a valley in Hell." `Ikrimah also said that Athama refers to valleys in Hell in which those who commit unlawful sexual acts will be punished. This was also narrated from Sa'id bin

Jubayr and Mujahid. As-Suddi said that Athama referred to punishment, which is closer to the apparent meaning of the Ayah. This interpretation makes it interchangeable with what comes next, the Ayah:

(يُضَعَفُ لَهُ الْعَذَابُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ)

(The torment will be doubled for him on the Day of Resurrection,) i.e., repetitive and intensified.

(وَيَخْلُدُ فِيهِ مُهَانًا)

(and he will abide therein in disgrace;) scorned and humiliated.

(إِلَّا مَنْ تَابَ وَءَامَنَ وَعَمِلَ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا)

(Except those who repent and believe, and do righteous deeds;) means, those who do these evil deeds will be punished in the manner described,

(إِلَّا مَنْ تَابَ)

(Except those who repent), that is; those who repent in this world to Allah from all of those deeds, for then Allah will accept their repentance. This is evidence that the repentance of the murderer is acceptable, and there is no contradiction between this and the Ayah in Surat An-Nisa':

(وَمَنْ يَقْتُلْ مُؤْمِنًا مُتَعَمِّدًا)

(And whoever kills a believer intentionally) (4:93), because even though this was revealed in Al-Madinah, the meaning is general, and it could be interpreted to refer to one who does not repent, because this Ayah states that forgiveness is only for those who repent. Moreover Allah says:

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

(Verily, Allah forgives not that partners should be set up with Him, but He forgives except that to whom He wills) (4:48). And in the authentic Sunnah, it is reported from the Messenger of Allah that the repentance of a murderer is acceptable, as was stated in the story of the person who killed one hundred men and then repented, and Allah accepted his repentance, and other Hadiths.

(فَأُولَٰئِكَ يُبَدِّلُ اللَّهُ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ حَسَنَاتٍ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا)

(for those, Allah will change their sins into good deeds, and Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.) Imam Ahmad recorded that Abu Dharr, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allah said:

«إِنِّي لَأَعْرِفُ آخِرَ أَهْلِ النَّارِ خُرُوجًا مِنَ النَّارِ، وَآخِرَ أَهْلِ الْجَنَّةِ دُخُولًا إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ، يُؤْتَى بِرَجُلٍ فَيَقُولُ: نَحْنُوا عَنْهُ كِبَارَ ذُنُوبِهِ وَسَلُّوهُ عَنْ صِغَارِهَا، قَالَ: فَيُقَالُ لَهُ: عَمِلْتَ يَوْمَ كَذَا، كَذَا وَكَذَا، وَعَمِلْتَ يَوْمَ كَذَا، كَذَا وَكَذَا، فَيَقُولُ: نَعَمْ لَا يَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ يُنْكِرَ مِنْ ذَلِكَ شَيْئًا، فَيُقَالُ: فَإِنَّ لَكَ بِكُلِّ سَيِّئَةٍ حَسَنَةً، فَيَقُولُ: يَا رَبِّ عَمِلْتُ أَشْيَاءَ لَا أَرَاهَا هَهُنَا»

(I know the last person who will be brought forth from Hell, and the last person who will enter Paradise. A man will be brought and it will be said, "Take away his major sins and ask him about his minor sins." So it will be said to him: "On such and such a day, you did such and such, and on such and such a day, you did such and such." He will say, "Yes, and he will not be able to deny anything." Then it will be said to him: "For every evil deed you now have one good merit." He will say: "O Lord, I did things that I do not see here.") He (Abu Dharr) said: "And the Messenger of Allah smiled so broadly that his molars could be seen." Muslim recorded it. Ibn Abi Hatim recorded that Abu Jabir heard Makhul say, "A very old man with sunken eyes came and said, `O Messenger of Allah, a man betrayed others and did immoral deeds, and there was no evil deed which he did not do. If (his sins) were to be distributed among the whole of mankind, they would all be doomed. Is there any repentance for him" The Messenger of Allah said:

«أَسْلَمْتُ؟»

(Have you become Muslim) He said, "As for me, I bear witness that there is no God but Allah Alone, with no partner or associate, and that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger." The Prophet said:

«فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَافِرٌ لِّكَ مَا كُنْتَ كَذَلِكُ، وَمُبَدِّلٌ سَيِّئَاتِكَ حَسَنَاتٍ»

(Allah will forgive you for whatever you have done like that, and will replace your evil deeds with good merits.) The man said: "O Messenger of Allah, even my betrayals and immoral actions" The Prophet said:

«وَعَذَرَائِكَ وَفَجَرَائِكَ»

(Even your betrayals and immoral actions.) "The man went away saying `La ilaha illallah' and `Allahu Akbar.'" Allah tells us how His mercy extends to all His creatrues, and that whoever among them repents to Him, He will accept his repentance for any sin, great or small. Allah says:

(وَمَنْ تَابَ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَإِنَّهُ يَتُوبُ إِلَى اللَّهِ مَتَابًا)

(And whosoever repents and does righteous good deeds; then indeed he has repented to Allah Mataba.) meaning, Allah will accept his repentance. This is like the Ayat:

(وَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ سُوءًا أَوْ يَظْلِمْ نَفْسَهُ ثُمَّ يَسْتَغْفِرِ اللَّهَ يَجِدِ اللَّهَ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا)

(And whoever does evil or wrongs himself but afterwards seeks Allah's forgiveness, he will find Allah Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful) (4:110).

(أَلَمْ يَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ يَقْبَلُ التَّوْبَةَ عَنْ عِبَادِهِ)

(Know they not that Allah accepts repentance from His servants...) (9:104).

(قُلْ يَعِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَى أَنْفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِنْ رَحْمَةِ اللَّهِ)

(Say: "O My servants who have transgressed against themselves! Despair not of the mercy of Allah.") (39:53) - for those who repent to Him.

(وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَشْهَدُونَ الزُّورَ وَإِذَا مَرُّوا بِاللَّغْوِ مَرُّوا كِرَامًا - وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا دُكِّرُوا بِآيَةِ رَبِّهِمْ لَمْ يَخِرُّوا عَلَيْهَا صُمًّا وَعُمْيَانًا - وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا)

(72. And those who do not bear witness to falsehood, and if they pass by some evil play or evil talk, they pass by it with dignity.) (73. And those who, when they are reminded of the Ayat of their Lord, fall not deaf and blind thereat.) (74. And those who say: "Our Lord! Bestow on us from our wives and our offspring the comfort of our eyes, and make us leaders of those who have Taqwa.")

More Attributes of the Servants of the Most Gracious

These are further attributes of the servants of the Most Gracious. They do not bear witness to falsehood, including lies, immorality, disbelief, foul speech and false words. `Amr bin Qays said, this refers to gatherings of sexual immorality. It was said that the Ayah,

(لَا يَشْهَدُونَ الزُّورَ)

(And those who do not bear witness to falsehood,) refers to giving false testimony, which means lying deliberately to someone else. It was recorded in the Two Sahihs that Abu Bakrah said, "The Messenger of Allah said three times:

«أَلَا أَنبِئُكُمْ بِكَبِيرِ الْكَبَائِرِ؟»

(Shall I not tell you of the greatest of major sins) We said, "Of course, O Messenger of Allah." The Messenger of Allah said:

«الشِّرْكَ بِاللَّهِ وَعُقُوقُ الْوَالِدَيْنِ»

(Associating others in worship with Allah and disobeying one's parents.) He was lying down, then he sat up and added:

«أَلَا وَقَوْلُ الزُّورِ، أَلَا وَشَهَادَةُ الزُّورِ»

(Beware false speech, and bearing witness to falsehood.) and he kept repeating it until we thought, would that he would stop." From the context it seems that what is meant by those

who do not bear witness to falsehood is those who do not attend to it or are not present when it happens. Allah says:

(وَإِذَا مَرُّوا بِاللَّغْوِ مَرُّوا كِرَامًا)

(and if they pass by some evil play or evil talk, they pass by it with dignity.) They do not attend where falsehood occurs, and if it so happens that they pass by it, they do not let it contaminate them in the slightest. Allah says:

(مَرُّوا كِرَامًا)

(they pass by it with dignity.)

(وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا ذُكِّرُوا بِآيَاتِ رَبِّهِمْ لَمْ يَخِرُّوا عَلَيْهَا صُمًّا وَعُمْيَانًا)

(And those who, when they are reminded of the Ayat of their Lord, fall not deaf and blind thereat.) This is also a characteristic of the believers,

(الَّذِينَ إِذَا ذُكِرَ اللَّهُ وَحِلَتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَإِذَا تُلِيَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتُهُ زَادَتْهُمْ إِيمَانًا وَعَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ)

(Those who, when Allah is mentioned, feel a fear in their hearts and when His Ayat are recited unto them, they increase their faith; and they put their trust in their Lord.) (8:2) Unlike the disbelievers. When they hear the Words of Allah, they are not affected by them or moved to change their ways. They persist in their disbelief, wrongdoing, ignorance and misguidance, as Allah says:

(وَإِذَا مَا أَنْزَلْنَا سُورَةً فَمِنْهُمْ مَنْ يَقُولُ أَئِذَا زَادَتْهُ هَذِهِ إِيمَانًا فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا فزَادَتْهُمْ إِيمَانًا وَهُمْ يَسْتَبْشِرُونَ وَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ مَّرَضٌ فزَادَتْهُمْ رِجْسًا إِلَىٰ رِجْسِهِمْ)

(And whenever there comes down a Surah, some of them say: "Which of you has had his faith increased by it" As for those who believe, it has increased their faith, and they rejoice. But as for those in whose hearts is a disease, it will add doubt to their doubt) (9:124-125).

(لَمْ يَخِرُّوا عَلَيْهَا صُمًّا وَعُمْيَانًا)

(fall not deaf and blind thereat.) means, unlike the disbelievers who, when they hear the Ayat of Allah, are not moved by them, but continue as they are, as if they did not hear them but are deaf and blind. His saying:

(وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا
وَدُرِّيَّتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ)

(And those who say: "Our Lord! Bestow on us from our wives and our offspring the comfort of our eyes...") means those who ask Allah to bring forth from their loins offspring who will obey Him and worship Him and not associate anything in worship with Him. Ibn `Abbas said, "This means (offspring) who will strive to obey Allah and bring them joy in this world and the Hereafter." Imam Ahmad recorded that Jubayr bin Nufayr said: "We sat with Al-Miqdad bin Al-Aswad one day, and a man passed by and said, "How blessed are these two eyes which saw the Messenger of Allah ! Would that we had seen what you saw and witnessed what you witnessed." Al-Miqdad got angry, and I was surprised, because the man had not said anything but good. Then he turned to him and said, "What makes a man wish to be present when Allah had caused him to be absent, and he does not know how he would have behaved if he had been there By Allah, there are people who saw the Messenger of Allah , and Allah will throw them on their faces in Hell because they did not accept him or believe in him. Are you not grateful that Allah brought you forth from your mothers' wombs believing in your Lord and in what your Prophet brought, and that the test went to others and not to you Allah sent His Prophet during the most difficult time that any Prophet was ever sent, after a long period of ignorance, when the people could see no better religion than the worship of idols, and he brought the Criterion which distinguishes truth from falsehood and which would separate a father from his son. A man would realize that his father, son or brother was a disbeliever, and since Allah had opened his heart to Faith, he knew that if his relative died he would go to Hell, so he could not rest knowing that his loved one was in the Fire. This is what Allah referred to in the Ayah,

(وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا
وَدُرِّيَّتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ)

(And those who say: "Our Lord! Bestow on us from our wives and our offspring the comfort of our eyes...") Its chain of narrators is Sahih, although they did not report it.

(وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا)

(and make us leaders of those who have Taqwa.) Ibn `Abbas, Al-Hasan, As-Suddi, Qatadah and Rabi` bin Anas said: "Leaders who would be taken as examples in good." Others said: "Guides who would call others to goodness." They wanted their worship to be connected to the worship

of their children and offspring, and their guidance to go beyond themselves and benefit others. This would be more rewarding and a better end, as it was recorded in Sahih Muslim from Abu Hurayrah, may Allah be pleased with him, that the Messenger of Allah said:

«إِذَا مَاتَ ابْنُ آدَمَ انْقَطَعَ عَمَلُهُ إِلَّا مِنْ ثَلَاثٍ: وَلَدٍ صَالِحٍ يَدْعُو لَهُ، أَوْ عِلْمٍ يُنْتَفَعُ بِهِ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ، أَوْ صَدَقَةٍ جَارِيَةٍ»

(When a son of Adam dies, his deeds cease apart from three: a righteous child who will pray for him, knowledge from which others may benefit after him, or ongoing charity.)

(أُولَئِكَ يُجْزَوْنَ الْعُرْفَةَ بِمَا صَبَرُوا وَيُلَقَّوْنَ فِيهَا تَحِيَّةً وَسَلَامًا - خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا حَسُنَتْ مُسْتَقَرًّا وَمُقَامًا - قُلْ مَا يَعْبَأُ بِكُمْ رَبِّي لَوْلَا دُعَاؤُكُمْ فَقَدْ كَذَّبْتُمْ فَسَوْفَ يَكُونُ لِزَامًا)

(75. Those will be rewarded with the highest place because of their patience. Therein they shall be met with greetings and the word of peace and respect.) (76. Abiding therein -- excellent it is as an abode, and as a place to rest in.) (77. Say: "My Lord pays attention to you only because of your invocation to Him. But now you have indeed denied. So the torment will be yours forever.")

The Reward of the Servants of the Most Gracious, and a Warning to the People of Makkah

After mentioning the beautiful attributes of His believing servants, and their fine words and deeds, Allah then says:

(أُولَئِكَ)

(Those) meaning, the people who are described in this manner,

(يُجْزَوْنَ)

(will be rewarded) on the Day of Resurrection,

(الْعُرْفَةُ)

(with the highest place), which is Paradise. Abu Ja`far Al-Baqir, Sa`id bin Jubayr, Ad-Dahhak and As-Suddi said, "It was so called because of its elevation."

(يَمَّا صَبَرُوا)

(because of their patience.) means, their patience in doing what they did.

(وَيُلْقَوْنَ فِيهَا)

(Therein they shall be met) means, in Paradise.

(تَحِيَّةً وَسَلَامًا)

(with greetings and the word of peace and respect.) This means that they will be greeted first with words of welcome and honor. Peace will be theirs and they will be wished peace. And angels shall enter unto them from every gate, saying, "Peace be upon you for that you persevered in patience! Excellent indeed is the final home!"

(خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا)

(Abiding therein) means, they will settle there and never leave or move or die, they will never exit or wish to move to somewhere else. This is like the Ayah,

(وَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ سُعِدُوا فَفِي الْجَنَّةِ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا مَا دَامَتِ السَّمَوَاتُ وَالْأَرْضُ)

(And those who are blessed, they will be in Paradise, abiding therein for all the time that the heavens and the earth endure) (11:108).

(حَسَنَتْ مُسْتَقَرًّا وَمُقَامًا)

(excellent it is as an abode, and as a place to rest in.) Its appearance is beautiful and it is a good place in which to rest and to dwell. Then Allah says:

(قُلْ مَا يَعْبَوُا بِكُمْ رَبِّي)

(Say: "My Lord pays attention to you only because of your invocation to Him...") meaning, He would not care to pay attention to you if you did not worship Him, for He only created mankind to worship Him Alone and to glorify Him morning and evening. His saying:

(فَقَدْ كَذَّبْتُمْ)

(But now you have indeed denied.) "O you disbelievers."

(فَسَوْفَ يَكُونُ لِزَامًا)

(So the torment will be yours forever.) So your denial will remain with you forever, i.e., it will lead to your punishment, doom and destruction in this world and the Hereafter. This also refers to the day of Badr, as it was interpreted by `Abdullah bin Mas`ud, Ubayy bin Ka`b, Muhammad bin Ka`b Al-Qurazi, Mujahid, Ad-Dahhak, Qatadah, As-Suddi and others.

(فَسَوْفَ يَكُونُ لِزَامًا)

(So the torment will be yours forever.) Al-Hasan Al-Basri said: "The Day of Resurrection." And there is no conflict between the two interpretations. This is the end of the Tafsir of Surat Al-Furqan, all praise and thanks are due to Allah.

The Tafsir of Surat Ash-Shu`ara

(Chapter - 26)

Which was revealed in Makkah

(بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ)

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

(طسم - تِلْكَ ءَايَاتُ الْكِتَابِ الْمُبِينِ - لَعَلَّكَ بَخِعٌ
نَفْسَكَ إِلَّا يَكُونُوا مُؤْمِنِينَ - إِنْ تَشَأْ نُنْزِلْ عَلَيْهِمْ
مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ ءَايَةً فَظَلَّتْ أَعْنَاقُهُمْ لَهَا خَاضِعِينَ -
وَمَا يَأْتِيهِمْ مِّنْ ذِكْرٍ مِّنَ الرَّحْمَنِ مُحْدَثٍ إِلَّا
كَانُوا عَنْهُ مُعْرِضِينَ - فَقَدْ كَذَّبُوا فَسَيَأْتِيهِمْ أَنْبَاءُ

مَا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِءُونَ - أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا إِلَى الْأَرْضِ
كَمْ أَنْبَأْنَا فِيهَا مِنْ كُلِّ زَوْجٍ كَرِيمٍ - إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ
لَآيَةً وَمَا كَانَ أَكْثَرُهُمْ مُؤْمِنِينَ - وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَهُوَ
الْعَزِيزُ الرَّحِيمُ)

(1. Ta Sin Mim.) (2. These are Ayat of the Book Mubin.) (3. It may be that you are going Bakhi` yourself, that they do not become believers.) (4. If We will, We could send down to them from the heaven a sign, to which they would bend their necks in humility.) (5. And never comes there unto them a Reminder as a recent revelation from the Most Gracious, but they turn away therefrom.) (6. So, they have indeed denied, then the news of what they mocked at will come to them.) (7. Do they not observe the earth -- how much of every good kind We cause to grow therein) (8. Verily, in this is an Ayah, yet most of them are not believers.) (9. And verily your Lord, He is truly the All-Mighty, the Most Merciful.)

The Qur'an and the Disbelievers turning away;

They could be compelled to believe if Allah so willed At the beginning of the explanation of Surat Al-Baqarah we discussed the letters which appear at the beginning of some Surahs. Allah's saying:

(تِلْكَ ءَايَاتُ الْكِتَابِ الْمُبِينِ)

(These are the Ayat of the Book Mubin.) means, these are the verses of the Clear Qur'an, i.e. the clear and unambiguous Book which distinguishes between truth and falsehood, misguidance and guidance.

(لَعَلَّكَ بَخِعٌ نَفْسًا)

(It may be that you are going Bakhi` yourself,) means, destroy yourself -- because of your keenness that they should be guided and your grief for them.

(أَلَّا يَكُونُوا مُؤْمِنِينَ)

(that they do not become believers.) Here Allah is consoling His Messenger for the lack of faith of those among the disbelievers who do not believe in him. This is like the Ayat:

(فَلَا تَذْهَبْ نَفْسُكَ عَلَيْهِمْ حَسْرَتٍ)

(So destroy not yourself in sorrow for them) (35:8).

(فَلَعَلَّكَ بَخِعٌ نَّفْسَكَ عَلَى آثَرِهِمْ إِنْ لَمْ يُؤْمِنُوا
بِهَذَا الْحَدِيثِ أَسَفًا)

(Perhaps, you would Bakhi` yourself, over their footsteps, because they believe not in this narration) (18:6). Mujahid, `Ikrimah, Qatadah, `Atiyyah, Ad-Dahhak, Al-Hasan and others said that:

(لَعَلَّكَ بَخِعٌ نَّفْسَكَ)

(It may be that you are going Bakhi` yourself,) means, `kill yourself.' Then Allah says:

(إِنْ نَشَأْ نُنَزِّلْ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ آيَةً فَظَلَّتْ
أَعْنَاقُهُمْ لَهَا خَاضِعِينَ)

(If We will, We could send down to them from the heaven a sign, to which they would bend their necks in humility.) meaning, `if We so willed, We could send down a sign that would force them to believe, but We will not do that because We do not want anyone to believe except by choice.' Allah says:

(وَلَوْ شَاءَ رَبُّكَ لَأَمَنَّ مِنَ فِي الْأَرْضِ كُلَّهُمْ
جَمِيعًا أَفَأَنْتَ تُكْرَهُ النَّاسَ حَتَّى يَكُونُوا مُؤْمِنِينَ)

(And had your Lord willed, those on earth would have believed, all of them together. So, will you then compel mankind, until they become believers.) (10:99)

(وَلَوْ شَاءَ رَبُّكَ لَجَعَلَ النَّاسَ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً)

(And if your Lord had so willed, He could surely, have made mankind one Ummah...) (11:118) But Allah's will has acted, His decree has come to pass, and His proof has been conveyed to mankind by mission of Messengers and the revelation of Books to them. Then Allah says:

(وَمَا يَأْتِيهِمْ مِنْ ذِكْرِ مِنَ الرَّحْمَنِ مُحَدَّثٍ إِلَّا
كَانُوا عَنْهُ مُعْرِضِينَ)

(And never comes there unto them a Reminder as a recent revelation from the Most Gracious, but they turn away therefrom.) meaning, every time a Scripture comes from heaven to them, most of the people turn away from it. As Allah says:

(وَمَا أَكْثَرُ النَّاسِ وَلَوْ حَرَصْتَ بِمُؤْمِنِينَ)

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

(يَحْسِرَةَ عَلَى الْعِبَادِ مَا يَأْتِيهِمْ مِّن رَّسُولٍ إِلَّا
كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِءُونَ)

(Alas for mankind! There never came a Messenger to them but they used to mock at him.)
(36:30)

(ثُمَّ أَرْسَلْنَا رُسُلَنَا تَتْرَىٰ كُلَّ مَا جَاءَ أُمَّةً رَّسُولُهَا
كَذَّبُوهُ)

(Then We sent Our Messengers in succession. Every time there came to a nation their Messenger, they denied him...) (23:44). Allah says here:

(فَقَدْ كَذَّبُوا فَسَيَأْتِيهِمْ أَنْبَاءُ مَا كَانُوا بِهِ
يَسْتَهْزِءُونَ)

(So, they have indeed denied, then the news of what they mocked at will come to them.) meaning, they denied the truth that came to them, so they will come to know the news of the consequences of this denial after a while.

(وَسَيَعْلَمُ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا أَيَّ مُنْقَلَبٍ يَنْقَلِبُونَ)

(And those who do wrong will come to know by what overturning they will be overturned) (26:227). Then Allah tells those who dared to oppose His Messenger and disbelieve in His Book, that He is the Subduer, the Almighty, the All-Powerful, Who created the earth and caused every good kind of crop, fruit and animal to grow therein. Sufyan Ath-Thawri narrated from a man from Ash-Sha'bi that people are a product of the earth. So whoever enters Paradise is good and noble, and whoever enters Hell is base and vile.

(إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَةً)

(Verily, in this is an Ayah,) meaning an evidence of the power of the Creator of all things. He spread out the earth and raised the canopy of the heavens, yet despite that the majority of people do not believe, rather they deny Him, His Messengers, and His Books, and they go against His commands doing the things He had prohibited. His saying:

(وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ)

(And verily your Lord, He is truly the All-Mighty,) means, the One Who has power over all things, to subdue and control them,

(الرَّحِيمِ)

(the Most Merciful.) means, towards His creation, for He does not hasten to punish the one who sins, but He gives him time to repent, and if he does not, then He seizes him with a mighty punishment. Abu Al-`Aliyah, Qatadah, Ar-Rabi` bin Anas and Ibn Ishaq said: "He is Almighty in His punishment of those who went against His commands and worshipped others besides Him." Sa` id bin Jubayr said: "He is Most Merciful towards those who repent to Him and turn to Him."

(وَإِذْ نَادَى رَبُّكَ مُوسَى أَنْ أَنْتَ الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ -
قَوْمَ فِرْعَوْنَ أَلَا يَتَّقُونَ - قَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي أَخَافُ أَنْ
يُكَذِّبُون - وَيَضِيقُ صَدْرِي وَلَا يَنْطَلِقُ لِسَانِي
فَأَرْسِلْ إِلَى هَارُونَ - وَلَهُمْ عَلَى ذَنْبٍ فَأَخَافُ أَنْ
يَقْتُلُون - قَالَ كَلَّا فَادْهَبَا بِآيَتِنَا إِنَّا مَعَكُمْ
مُسْتَمِعُونَ - فَأْتِيَا فِرْعَوْنَ فَقُولَا إِنَّا رَسُولُ رَبِّ
الْعَالَمِينَ - أَنْ أَرْسِلْ مَعَنَا بَنِي إِسْرَءِيلَ - قَالَ أَلَمْ
نُرَبِّكَ فِيْنَا وَلِيدًا وَلِئِثْتَ فِيْنَا مِنْ عُمُرِكَ سِنِينَ -
وَفَعَلْتَ فَعَلَتَكَ الَّتِي فَعَلْتَ وَأَنْتَ مِنَ الْكَافِرِينَ -
قَالَ فَعَلْتُهَا إِذَا وَأَنَا مِنَ الضَّالِّينَ - فَفَرَرْتُ مِنْكُمْ
لَمَّا خِفْتُكُمْ فَوَهَبَ لِي رَبِّي حُكْمًا وَجَعَلَنِي مِنَ
الْمُرْسَلِينَ - وَتِلْكَ نِعْمَةٌ تَمُنُّهَا عَلَيَّ أَنْ عَبَّدتَّ
بَنِي إِسْرَءِيلَ)

(10. And (remember) when your Lord called Musa (saying): "Go to the people who are wrongdoers.") (11. "The people of Fir`awn. Will they not have Taqwa") (12. He said: "My Lord! Verily, I fear that they will deny me,") (13. "And my breast straitens, and my tongue expresses not well. So send for Harun.") (14. "And they have a charge of crime against me, and I fear they will kill me.") (15. (Allah) said: "Nay! Go you both with Our signs. Verily, We shall be with you, listening.") (16. "And go both of you to Fir`awn, and say: `We are the Messengers of the Lord of Al-`Alamin,') (17. `So allow the Children of Israel to go with us.") (18. (Fir`awn) said (to Musa): "Did we not bring you up among us as a child And you did dwell many years of your life with us.") (19. "And you did your deed, which you did. While you were one of the ingrates.") (20. Musa said: "I did it then, when I was in error.") (21. "So, I fled from you when I feared you. But my Lord has granted me Hukm, and made me one of the Messengers.") (22. "And this is the past favor with which you reproach me, -- that you have enslaved the Children of Israel.")

Between Musa and Fir`awn

Allah tells us what He commanded His servant, son of `Imran and Messenger Musa, peace be upon him, who spoke with Him, to do, when He called him from the right side of the mountain, and conversed with him, and chose him, sent him, and commanded him to go to Fir`awn and his people. Allah says:

(وَإِذْ نَادَىٰ رَبُّكَ مُوسَىٰ أَنِ ائْتِ الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ -
 قَوْمَ فِرْعَوْنَ أَلا يَتَّقُونَ - قَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي أَخَافُ أَن
 يُكَذِّبُون - وَيَضِيقُ صَدْرِي وَلَا يَنْطَلِقُ لِسَانِي
 فَأَرْسِلْ إِلَىٰ هَارُونَ - وَلَهُمْ عَلَىٰ ذَنْبٍ فَأَخَافُ أَن
 يَقْتُلُون)

(And when your Lord called Musa: "Go to the people who are wrongdoers. The people of Fir`awn. Will they not have Taqwa" He said: "My Lord! Verily, I fear that they will deny me, And my breast straitens, and my tongue expresses not well. So send for Harun. And they have a charge of crime against me, and I fear they will kill me.") So, Musa asked Allah to remove these difficulties for him, as he said in Surah Ta Ha:

(قَالَ رَبِّ اشْرَحْ لِي صَدْرِي - وَيَسِّرْ لِي أَمْرِي)

(Musa said: "O my Lord! Open for me my chest. And ease my task for me.") (20:25-26) until:

(قَدْ أُوتِيتَ سُؤْلَكَ يَمُوسَىٰ)

(You are granted your request, O Musa!) (20:36)

(وَلَهُمْ عَلَى ذَنْبٍ فَأَخَافُ أَنْ يَقْتُلُونِ)

(And they have a charge of crime against me, and I fear they will kill me.) because he had killed that Egyptian, which was the reason that he left the land of Egypt.

(قَالَ كَلَّا)

((Allah) said: "Nay!..." Allah told him: do not be afraid of anything like that. This is like the Ayah,

(سَنَشُدُّ عَضُدَكَ بِأَخِيكَ وَنَجْعَلُ لَكُمَا سُلْطٰنًا)

(Allah said: "We will strengthen your arm through your brother, and give you both power) meaning, proof;

(فَلَا يَصِلُونَ إِلَيْكُمَا بِآيٰتِنَا أَنْتُمَا وَمَنِ اتَّبَعَكُمَا
الْغٰلِبُونَ)

(so they shall not be able to harm you, with Our signs, you two as well as those who follow you will be the victors) (28:35),

(فَاذْهَبَا بِآيٰتِنَا إِنَّا مَعَكُمْ مُسْتَمِعُونَ)

(Go you both with Our signs. Verily, We shall be with you, listening.) This is like the Ayah,

(إِنِّي مَعَكُمْ أَسْمَعُ وَأَرَى)

(I am with you both, hearing and seeing) (20:46). Meaning, 'I will be with you by My protection, care, support and help.'

(فَأْتِيَا فِرْعَوْنَ فَقُولَا إِنَّا رَسُولُ رَبِّ الْعٰلَمِينَ)

(And go both of you to Fir`awn, and say: 'We are the Messengers of the Lord of the all that exists.') This is like the Ayah,

(إِنَّا رَسُوْلَا رَبِّكَ)