

(And if some good reaches them, they say, "This is from Allah," but if some evil befalls them, they say, "This is from you." Say: "All things are from Allah.") (4:78) i.e., by virtue of His will and decree. And Allah tells us about the dwellers of the town, when the Messengers came to them:

(قَالُوا إِنَّا تَطِيرُنَا بِكُمْ لَيْنَ لَمْ تَنْتَهُوا لَنَرْجُمَنَّكُمْ وَلَيَمَسَّنَّكُمْ مِنَّا عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ)

(قَالُوا طِيرُكُمْ مَعَكُمْ)

(They (people) said: "For us, we see an omen from you; if you cease not, we will surely stone you, and a painful torment will touch you from us." They (Messengers) said: "Your omens are with yourselves!) (36:18) And these people)Thamud(said:

(اطِيرُنَا بِكَ وَيَمَن مَّعَكَ قَالَ طَائِرُكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ)

("We augur an omen from you and those with you." He said: "Your omen is of Allah;) meaning, Allah will punish you for that.

(بَلْ أَنْتُمْ قَوْمٌ تُفْتَنُونَ)

(nay, but you are a people that are being tested.) Qatadah said: "You are being tested to see whether you will obey or disobey." The apparent meaning of the phrase

(تُفْتَنُونَ)

(are being tested) is: you will be left to get carried away in your state of misguidance.

(وَكَانَ فِي الْمَدِينَةِ تِسْعَةُ رَهْطٍ يُفْسِدُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا يُصْلِحُونَ - قَالُوا تَقَاسَمُوا بِاللَّهِ لَنُبَيِّتَنَّهُ وَأَهْلَهُ ثُمَّ لَنَقُولَنَّ لِوَلِيِّهِ مَا شَهِدْنَا مَهْلِكَ أَهْلِهِ وَإِنَّا لَصَادِقُونَ - وَمَكْرُؤًا مَكَرًا وَمَكْرُنًا مَكَرًا وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ - فَاَنْظُرْ كَيْفَ كَانَ عَقِبُهُ

مَكْرَهُمْ أَنَا دَمَرْنَاهُمْ وَقَوْمَهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ - فَتِلْكَ
بُيُوتُهُمْ خَاوِيَةٌ بِمَا ظَلَمُوا إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَةً لِّقَوْمٍ
يَعْلَمُونَ - وَأُنَجِّينَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَكَانُوا يَتَّقُونَ)

(48. And there were in the city nine Rahtin, who made mischief in the land, and would not reform.) (49. They said: "Swear one to another by Allah that we shall make a secret night attack on him and his household, and thereafter we will surely say to his near relatives: `We witnessed not the destruction of his household, and verily, we are telling the truth.'") (50. So, they plotted a plot, and We planned a plan, while they perceived not.) (51. Then see how was the end of their plot! Verily, We destroyed them and their nation all together.) (52. These are their houses in utter ruin, for they did wrong. Verily, in this is indeed an Ayah for people who know.) (53. And We saved those who believed, and had Taqwa of Allah.)

The Plot of the Mischief-Makers and the End of the People of Thamud

Allah tells us about the evildoers of Thamud and their leaders who used to call their people to misguidance and disbelief, and to deny Salih. Eventually they killed the she-camel and were about to kill Salih too. They plotted to let him sleep with his family at night, then they would assassinate him and tell his relatives that they knew nothing about what happened to him, and that they were telling the truth because none of them had seen anything. Allah says:

(وَكَانَ فِي الْمَدِينَةِ)

(And there were in the city) meaning, in the city of Thamud,

(تِسْعَةَ رَهْطٍ)

(nine Raht,) meaning, nine people,

(يُفْسِدُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا يُصْلِحُونَ)

(who made mischief in the land, and would not reform.) They forced their opinions on the people of Thamud, because they were the leaders and chiefs. Al-`Awfi reported that Ibn `Abbas said: "These were the people who killed the she-camel," Meaning, that happened upon their instigation, may Allah curse them. Allah says:

(فَنَادَوْا صَاحِبَهُمْ فَتَعَاطَى فَعَقَرَ)

(But they called their comrade and he took (a sword) and killed (the she-camel).) (54:29)

(إِذِ انْبَعَثَ أَشْقَاهَا)

(When the most wicked man among them went forth (to kill the she-camel).) (91:12) `Abdur-Razzaq said that Yahya bin Rabi` ah As-San` ani told them, "I heard `Ata' -- i.e. Ibn Abi Rabah -- say:

(وَكَانَ فِي الْمَدِينَةِ تِسْعَةُ رَهْطٍ يُفْسِدُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا يُصْلِحُونَ)

(And there were in the city nine Raht, who made mischief in the land, and would not reform.) `They used to break silver coins.'" They would break off pieces from them, as if they used to trade with them in terms of numbers (as opposed to weight), as the Arabs used to do. Imam Malik narrated from Yahya bin Sa`id that Sa`id bin Al-Musayyib said: "Cutting gold and silver (coins) is part of spreading corruption on earth." What is meant is that the nature of these evil disbelievers was to spread corruption on earth by every means possible, one of which was that mentioned by these Imams.

(قَالُوا تَقَاسَمُوا بِاللَّهِ لَنُبَيِّتَنَّهُ وَأَهْلَهُ)

(They said: "Swear one to another by Allah that we shall make a secret night attack on him and his household...") They took a mutual oath, pledging that during the night, whoever met the Allah's Prophet Salih, peace be upon him, he would assassinate him. But Allah planned against them and caused their plot to backfire. Mujahid said, "They took a mutual oath pledging to kill him, but before they could reach him, they and their people were all destroyed." `Abdur-Rahman bin Abi Hatim said: "When they killed the she-camel, Salih said to them:

(تَمَتَّعُوا فِي دَارِكُمْ ثَلَاثَةَ أَيَّامٍ ذَلِكَ وَعْدٌ غَيْرُ مَكْذُوبٍ)

("Enjoy yourselves in your homes for three days. This is a promise (i.e., a threat) that will not be belied.") (11:65). They said: `Salih claims that he will finish with us in three days, but we will finish him and his family before the three days are over.' Salih had a place of worship in a rocky tract in a valley, where he used to pray. So they set out to go to a cave there one night, and said, `When he comes to pray, we will kill him, then we will return. When we have finished him off, we will go to his family and finish them off too.' Then Allah sent down a rock upon them from the mountains round about; they feared that it would crush them, so they ran into the cave and the rock covered the mouth of the cave while they were inside. Their people did not know where they were or what had happened to them. So Allah punished some of them here, and some of them there, and He saved Salih and the people who were with him. Then he recited:

(وَمَكَرُوا مَكْرًا وَمَكَرْنَا مَكْرًا وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ)
فَانظُرْ كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ مَكْرِهِمْ أَنَا دَمَرْنَهُمْ
وَقَوْمَهُمْ بِيُوْنُهُمْ خَاوِيَةٌ)

(So, they plotted a plot, and We planned a plan, while they perceived not. Then see how was the end of their plot! Verily, We destroyed them and their nation, all together. These are their houses in utter ruin,) i.e., deserted."

(فَتِلْكَ بُيُوْتُهُمْ خَاوِيَةٌ بِمَا ظَلَمُوا إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَةً)
لِّقَوْمٍ يَعْلَمُونَ - وَأَنْجَيْنَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَكَانُوا
يَتَّقُونَ)

(for they did wrong. Verily, in this is indeed an Ayah for people who know. And We saved those who believed, and had Taqwa of Allah.)

(وَلُوطًا إِذْ قَالَ لِقَوْمِهِ أَتَأْتُونَ الْفَحِشَةَ وَأَنْتُمْ
تُبْصِرُونَ - أَعْيَبَكُمْ لِتَأْتُونَ الرِّجَالَ شَهْوَةً مِّنْ دُونِ
النِّسَاءِ بَلْ أَنْتُمْ قَوْمٌ تَجْهَلُونَ - فَمَا كَانَ جَوَابَ
قَوْمِهِ إِلَّا أَنْ قَالُوا أَخْرِجُوا آلَ لُوطٍ مِّنْ قَرْيَتِكُمْ
إِنَّهُمْ أَنَاسٌ يَّتَطَهَّرُونَ - فَأَنْجَيْنَاهُ وَأَهْلَهُ إِلَّا امْرَأَتَهُ
قَدَّرْنَاهَا مِنَ الْغَيْرِينَ وَأَمْطَرْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ مَطَرًا
فَسَاءَ مَطَرُ الْمُنْذَرِينَ)

(54. And (remember) Lut! When he said to his people: "Do you commit immoral sins while you see") (55. "Do you practice your lusts on men instead of women Nay, but you are a people who behave senselessly.") (56. There was no other answer given by his people except that they said: "Drive out the family of Lut from your city. Verily, these are men who want to be clean and pure!") (57. So, We saved him and his family, except his wife. We destined her to be of those who remained behind.) (58. And We rained down on them a rain. So, evil was the rain of those who were warned.)

Lut and His People

Allah tells us about His servant and Messenger Lut, peace be upon him, and how he warned his people of Allah's punishment for committing an act of immorality which no human ever committed before them -- intercourse with males instead of females. This is a major sin, whereby men are satisfied with men and women are with women (i.e., homosexuality). Lut said:

(أَتَأْتُونَ الْفَحِشَةَ وَأَنْتُمْ تُبْصِرُونَ)

(Do you commit immoral sins while you see) meaning, 'while you see one another, and you practice every kind of evil in your meetings.'

(أَعَيْنَكُمْ لَتَأْتُونَ الرِّجَالَ شَهْوَةً مِّنْ دُونِ النِّسَاءِ بَلْ أَنْتُمْ قَوْمٌ تَجْهَلُونَ)

(Do you practice your lusts on men instead of women Nay, but you are a people who behave senselessly.) means, 'you do not know anything of what is natural or what is prescribed by Allah.' This is like the Ayah:

(أَتَأْتُونَ الذُّكْرَانَ مِنَ الْعَالَمِينَ - وَتَذَرُونَ مَا خَلَقَ لَكُمْ رَبُّكُمْ مِنْ أَزْوَاجِكُمْ بَلْ أَنْتُمْ قَوْمٌ عَادُونَ)

(Go you in unto the males of mankind, and leave those whom Allah has created for you to be your wives Nay, you are a trespassing people!) (26:165-166)

(فَمَا كَانَ جَوَابَ قَوْمِهِ إِلَّا أَنْ قَالُوا أَخْرِجُوا آلَ لُوطٍ مِّنْ قَرْيَتِكُمْ إِنَّهُمْ أَنْاسٌ يَّتَطَهَّرُونَ)

(There was no other answer given by his people except that they said: "Drive out the family of Lut from your city. Verily, these are men who want to be clean and pure!") means, 'they feel embarrassed because of the deeds you are doing, and because you approve of your actions, so expel them from among yourselves, for they are not fit to live among you in your city.' So, the people resolved to do that, and Allah destroyed them, and a similar end awaits the disbelievers. Allah says:

(فَأَنْجَيْنَاهُ وَأَهْلَهُ إِلَّا امْرَأَتَهُ قَدَّرْنَاهَا مِنَ الْغَابِرِينَ)
(

(So, We saved him and his family, except his wife. We destined her to be of those who remained behind.) meaning, she was one of those who were destroyed, with her people, because she was a helper to what they did and she approved of their evil deeds. She told them about the guests of Lut so that they could come to them. She did not do the evil deeds herself, which was because of the honor of the Lut and not because of any honor on her part.

(وَأَمْطَرْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ مَطَرًا)

(And We rained down on them a rain.) means; stones of Sjjil, in a well-arranged manner one after another. Marked from your Lord; and they are not ever far from the evildoers. Allah said:

(فَسَاءَ مَطَرُ الْمُنْذَرِينَ)

(So, evil was the rain of those who were warned.) meaning, those against whom proof was established and whom the warning reached, but they went against the Messenger and denied him, and resolved to drive him out from among them.

(قُلِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَسَلَامٌ عَلَى عِبَادِهِ الَّذِينَ اصْطَفَى
ءَاللَّهُ خَيْرٌ أَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ - أَمَّنْ خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ
وَالْأَرْضَ وَأَنْزَلَ لَكُمْ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَنْبَتْنَا بِهِ
حَدَائِقَ ذَاتَ بَهْجَةٍ مَّا كَانَ لَكُمْ أَنْ تُنبِتُوا شَجَرَهَا
أَلَيْسَ مَعَ اللَّهِ بَلٌ هُمْ قَوْمٌ يَعْدِلُونَ)

(59. Say : "Praise and thanks be to Allah, and peace be on His servants whom He has chosen! Is Allah better, or what they ascribe as partners") (60. Is not He Who created the heavens and the earth, and sends down for you water from the sky, whereby We cause to grow wonderful gardens full of beauty and delight It is not in your ability to cause the growth of their trees. Is there any god with Allah Nay, but they are a people who ascribe equals!)

The Command to praise Allah and send Blessings on His Messengers

Allah commands His Messenger to say:

(الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ)

(Praise and thanks be to Allah,) meaning, for His innumerable blessings upon His servants and for His exalted Attributes and most beautiful Names. And He commands him to send peace upon the servants of Allah whom He chose and selected, i.e., His noble Messengers and Prophets, may the best of peace and blessings from Allah be upon them. This was the view of `Abdur-Rahman bin Zayd bin Aslam and others; the meaning of the servants He has chose is the Prophets. He said, "This like He said in the Ayah;

(سُبْحَنَ رَبِّكَ رَبِّ الْعِزَّةِ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ)

(وَسَلَّمَ عَلَى الْمُرْسَلِينَ - وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ
الْعَالَمِينَ)

(Glorified be your Lord, the Lord of honor and power! (He is free) from what they attribute unto Him! And peace be on the Messengers! And all the praises and thanks be to Allah, Lord of all that exists.) (37:180-182)." Ath-Thawri and As-Suddi said, "This refers to the Companions of Muhammad , may Allah be pleased with them all." Something similar was also narrated from Ibn `Abbas, and there is no contradiction between the two views, because they were also among the servants of Allah whom He had chosen, although the description is more befitting of the Prophets.

(ءَاللَّهُ خَيْرٌ أَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ)

(Is Allah better, or what they ascribe as partners (to Him)) This is a question aimed at denouncing the idolators for their worship of other gods besides Allah. Some more Proofs of Tawhid Then Allah begins to explain that He is the Only One Who creates, provides and controls, as He says:

(أَمَّنْ خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ)

(Is not He Who created the heavens) meaning, He created those heavens which are so high and serene, with their shining stars and revolving planets. And He created the earth, with its varying heights and densities, and He created everything in it, mountains, hills, plains, rugged terrain, wildernesses, crops, trees, fruits, seas and animals of all different kinds and colors and shapes, etc.

(وَأَنْزَلَ لَكُمْ مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً)

(and sends down for you water from the sky,) means, He sends it as a provision for His servants,

(فَأَنْبَتْنَا بِهِ حَدَائِقَ ذَاتَ بَهْجَةٍ)

(whereby We cause to grow wonderful gardens full of beauty and delight) means, beautiful and delightful to behold.

(مَا كَانَ لَكُمْ أَنْ تُنْبِتُوا شَجَرَهَا)

(It is not in your ability to cause the growth of their trees.) meaning, 'you are not able to cause their trees to grow. The One Who is able to do that is the Creator and Provider, Who is doing all this Alone and Independent of any idol and other rival.' The idolators themselves admitted this, as Allah says in another Ayah:

(وَلَئِنْ سَأَلْتَهُمْ مَنْ خَلَقَهُمْ لَيَقُولُنَّ اللَّهُ)

(And if you ask them: "Who has created them" they will certainly say: "Allah.") (31:25)

(وَلَئِنْ سَأَلْتَهُمْ مَنْ نَزَّلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَحْيَا بِهِ الْأَرْضَ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَوْتِهَا لَيَقُولُنَّ اللَّهُ)

(And if you were to ask them: "Who sends down water from the sky, and gives life therewith to the earth after its death" they will surely reply: "Allah.") (29:63) Meaning they will admit that He is the One Who does all these things, Alone, with no partner or associate, but then they worship others alongside Him, others who they admit cannot create or provide anything. But the Only One Who deserves to be worshipped is the Only One Who can create and provide, Allah says:

(أَلِلَّهُ مَعَ اللَّهِ)

(Is there any god with Allah) meaning, 'is there any god that can be worshipped alongside Allah, when it is clear to you and anyone who with reason that He is the Creator and Provider, as you yourselves admit' Then Allah says:

(بَلْ هُمْ قَوْمٌ يَعْدِلُونَ)

(Nay, but they are a people who ascribe equals (to Him)!) meaning, they describe others as being equal and comparable to Allah.

(أَمَّنْ جَعَلَ الْأَرْضَ قَرَارًا وَجَعَلَ خِلَالَهَا أَنْهَارًا
وَجَعَلَ لَهَا رَوَاسِي وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ حَاجِزًا
أَعْلَاهُ مَعَ اللَّهِ بَلْ أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ)

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

(أَمَّنْ جَعَلَ الْأَرْضَ قَرَارًا)

(Is not He Who has made the earth as a fixed abode,) meaning, stable and stationary, so that it does not move or convulse, because if it were to do so, it would not be a good place for people to live on. But by His grace and mercy, He has made it smooth and calm, and it is not shaken or moved. This is like the Ayah,

(اللَّهُ الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ الْأَرْضَ قَرَارًا وَالسَّمَاءَ
بِنَاءً)

(Allah, Who has made for you the earth as a dwelling place and the sky as a canopy) (40:64).

(وَجَعَلَ خِلَالَهَا أَنْهَارًا)

(and has placed rivers in its midst,) means, He has placed rivers which are fresh and sweet, cutting through the earth, and He has made them of different types, large rivers, small rivers and some in between. He has caused them to flow in all directions, east, west, south, north, according to the needs of mankind in different areas and regions, as He has created them throughout the world and sends them their provision according to their needs.

(وَجَعَلَ لَهَا رَوَاسِي)

(and has placed firm mountains therein,) means, high mountains which stabilize the earth and make it steadfast, so that it does not shake.

(وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ حَاجِزًا)

(and has set a barrier between the two seas) means, He has placed a barrier between the fresh water and the salt water, to prevent them from mixing lest they corrupt one another. Divine wisdom dictates that each of them should stay as it is meant to be. The sweet water is that which flows in rivers among mankind, and it is meant to be fresh and palatable so that it may

be used to water animals and plants and fruits. The salt water which surrounds the continents on all sides, and its water is meant to be salty and undrinkable lest the air be corrupted by its smell, as Allah says:

(وَهُوَ الَّذِي مَرَجَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ هَذَا عَذْبٌ فُرَاتٌ
وَهَذَا مِلْحٌ أُجَاجٌ وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَهُمَا بَرْزَخاً وَحِجْراً
مَّحْجُوراً)

(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.) (25:53) Allah says:

(أَعْلَهُ مَعَ اللَّهِ)

(Is there any god with Allah) meaning, any god who could do this, or who deserves to be worshipped Both meanings are indicated by the context.

(بَلْ أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ)

(Nay, but most of them know not!) means, in that they worship others than Allah.

(أَمَّنْ يُحِيبُ الْمُضْطَرَّ إِذَا دَعَاهُ وَيَكْشِفُ السُّوءَ
وَيَجْعَلُكُمْ خُلَفَاءَ الْأَرْضِ أَعْلَهُ مَعَ اللَّهِ قَلِيلاً مَّا
تَذَكَّرُونَ)

(62. Is not He Who responds to the distressed one, when he calls on Him, and Who removes the evil, and makes you inheritors of the earth, generations after generations Is there any god with Allah Little is that you remember!) Allah points out that He is the One upon Whom people call in times of difficulty, and He is the One to Whom they turn when calamity strikes, as He says elsewhere:

(وَإِذَا مَسَّكُمُ الضُّرُّ فِي الْبَحْرِ ضَلَّ مَنْ تَدْعُونَ
إِلَّا إِلَٰهَهُ)

(And when harm touches you upon the sea, those that you call upon vanish from you except Him) (17:67),

(ثُمَّ إِذَا مَسَّكُمُ الضُّرُّ فَإِلَيْهِ تَجْرُونَ)

(Then, when harm touches you, unto Him you cry aloud for help) (16:53). Similarly, Allah says here:

(أَمَّنْ يُجِيبُ الْمُضْطَرَّ إِذَا دَعَاهُ)

(Is not He Who responds to the distressed one, when he calls on Him,) meaning, Who is the only One to Whom the person in desperate need turns, and the only One Who can relieve those who are stricken by harm Imam Ahmad reported that a man of Balhajim said: "O Messenger of Allah, what are you calling for" He said:

«أَدْعُو إِلَى اللَّهِ وَحْدَهُ الَّذِي إِنْ مَسَّكَ ضُرٌّ
فَدَعَوْتُهُ كَشَفَ عَنْكَ، وَالَّذِي إِنْ أَضَلَلْتَ بِأَرْضٍ
قَفَرٍ فَدَعَوْتُهُ رَدَّ عَلَيْكَ، وَالَّذِي إِنْ أَصَابَتْكَ سَنَةٌ
فَدَعَوْتُهُ أَنْبَتَ لَكَ»

(I am calling people to Allah Alone, the One Who, if you call on Him when harm befalls you, will relieve you; and when you are lost in the wilderness, you call on Him and He brings you back: and when drought (famine) strikes, you call on Him and He makes your crops grow.) He said: "Advise me." He said:

«لَا تَسُبَّنَّ أَحَدًا وَلَا تَزْهَدَنَّ فِي الْمَعْرُوفِ، وَلَوْ
أَنْ تَلْقَى أَخَاكَ وَأَنْتَ مُنْبَسِطٌ إِلَيْهِ وَجْهُكَ، وَلَوْ أَنْ
تُفَرِّغَ مِنْ دَلْوِكَ فِي إِنَاءِ الْمُسْتَقِي، وَانْزِرْ إِلَى
نِصْفِ السَّاقِ فَإِنْ أَبَيْتَ فَإِلَى الْكَعْبَيْنِ، وَإِيَّاكَ
وَإِسْبَالَ الْإِزَارِ فَإِنَّ إِسْبَالَ الْإِزَارِ مِنَ الْمَخِيلَةِ
وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمَخِيلَةَ»

(Do not slander anyone and do not think of any good deed as insignificant, even if it is only meeting your brother with a cheerful face or emptying your vessel into the vessel of one who is asking for water. Wear your lower garment at mid-calf length, or -- if you insist -- let it reach

your ankles, and beware of lowering the garment along the ankles along the ground, for it is a form of showing-off, and Allah does not like showing-off.)

The Story of a Mujahid who fought for the sake of Allah

In his biography of Fatimah bint Al-Hasan Umm Ahmad Al-`Ajaliyyah, Al-Hafiz bin `Asakir reported that she said: "One day the disbelievers defeated the Muslims in a battle. There was a good horse which belonged to a rich man who was also righteous. The horse just stood there, so its owner said, `What is the matter with you Woe to you! I was only preparing you for a day such as this.' The horse said to him: `How can you expect me not to perform badly, when you delegated my feeding to the grooms, and they mistreated me and only fed me a little' The man said, `I make you a promise before Allah that from this day on, only I will feed you from my own lap.' So the horse began to run, and his owner was saved, and after that he only ever fed the horse from his own lap. This story became well known among the people, and they started to come to him to hear the story from his own lips. News of this reached the king of Byzantium, and he said: `A city where this man is, will be kept safe from harm.' He wanted to bring the man to his own city, so he sent an apostate (a man who had left Islam) who was living in his city to go to him, and when he reached him, he pretended that his intentions towards Islam and its followers were good, so the Mujahid trusted him. One day they went out walking along the shore, but the apostate made a pact with another person, a follower of the Byzantine king, to come and help him take the Mujahid prisoner. When they made their move, he lifted his gaze to the sky and said, `O Allah! He has deceived me by swearing in Your Name, so protect me in whatever way You will.' Then two wild animals came out and seized them, and the Mujahid came back safe and sound. " The Inheritance of the Earth

(وَيَجْعَلُكُمْ خُلَفَاءَ الْأَرْضِ)

(and makes you inheritors of the earth,) means, each generation inherits from the generation that came before them, one after the other, as Allah says:

(إِنْ يَشَأْ يُذْهِبْكُمْ وَيَسْتَخْلِفَ مِنْ بَعْدِكُمْ مَا يَشَاءُ
كَمَا أَنْشَأَكُمْ مِنْ ذُرِّيَّةِ قَوْمٍ ءَاخَرِينَ)

(if He wills, He can destroy you, and in your place make whom He wills as your successors, as He raised you from the seed of other people) (6:133),

(وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَكُمْ خَلَائِفَ الْأَرْضِ وَرَفَعَ
بَعْضَكُمْ فَوْقَ بَعْضٍ دَرَجَاتٍ)

(And it is He Who has made you generations coming after generations, replacing each other on the earth. And He has raised you in ranks, some above others) (6:165),

(وَإِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلٰٓئِكَةِ اِنِّىۤ جٰٓءِلٌ فِى الْاَرْضِ
خَلِیْفَةً)

(And (remember) when your Lord said to the angels: "Verily, I am going to place generations after generations on earth.") (2:30) meaning, people who will come after one another, as we have already stated. Allah's saying:

(وَيَجْعَلْكُمْ حُلَفَآءَ الْاَرْضِ)

(and makes you inheritors of the earth,) means, nation after nation, generation after generation, people after people. If He had willed, He could have created them all at one time, and not made some of them the offspring of others. If He had willed, He could have created them all together, as He created Adam from dust. If He had willed, He could have made some of them the offspring of others, but not caused any of them to die until they all died at one time; in this case the earth would have become constricted for them and it would be too difficult for them to live and earn a living, and they would have caused inconvenience and harm to one another. But His wisdom and decree ruled that they should be created from one soul, then their numbers should be greatly increased, so He created them on the earth and made them generation after generation, nation after nation, until their time will come to an end and there will be no one left on earth, as Allah has decreed and as He has completely counted out their numbers. Then the Resurrection will come to pass, and each person will be rewarded or punished according to his deeds. Allah says:

(اَمَّنْ يُجِيبُ الْمُضْطَرَّ اِذَا دَعَاهُ وَيَكْشِفُ السُّوْءَ
وَيَجْعَلْكُمْ حُلَفَآءَ الْاَرْضِ اَعْلَهُ مَعَ اللّٰهِ)

(Is not He Who responds to the distressed one, when he calls on Him, and Who removes the evil, and makes you inheritors of the earth, generations after generations Is there any god with Allah) meaning, is there anyone else able to do that, or a god with Allah worth worshipping -- while you know that He is the only one who can do that, having no partners

(قَلِيْلًا مَّا تَذَكَّرُوْنَ)

(Little is that you remember!) meaning, how little they think about that which would guide them to the truth and show them the straight path.

(اَمَّنْ يَهْدِيْكُمْ فِى ظُلُمٰتِ الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ وَمَنْ
يُرْسِلُ الرِّيَّاحَ بُشْرًا بَيْنَ يَدَيْ رَحْمَتِهٖ اَعْلَهُ مَعَ
اللّٰهِ تَعَالٰى اللّٰهُ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُوْنَ)

(63. Is not He Who guides you in the darkness of the land and the sea, and Who sends the winds as heralds of glad tidings, going before His mercy Is there any god with Allah Exalted be Allah above all that they associate as partners!) Allah says,

(أَمَّنْ يَهْدِيكُمْ فِي ظُلُمَاتِ الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ)

(Is not He Who guides you in the darkness of the land and the sea,) meaning, by means of what He has created of heavenly and earthly signposts. This is like the Ayah,

(وَعَلَامَاتٍ وَبِالنَّجْمِ هُمْ يَهْتَدُونَ)

(And landmarks and by the stars, they guide themselves.) (16:16)

(وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ النُّجُومَ لِتَهْتَدُوا بِهَا فِي ظُلُمَاتِ الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ)

(It is He Who has set the stars for you, so that you may guide your course with their help through the darkness of the land and the sea...) (6:97)

(وَمَنْ يُرْسِلُ الرِّيَّاحَ بُشْرًا بَيْنَ يَدَيْ رَحْمَتِهِ)

(and Who sends the winds as heralds of glad tidings, going before His mercy) meaning, ahead of the clouds which bring rain, by means of which Allah shows His mercy to His servants who are suffering drought and despair.

(أَعْلَهُ مَعَ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى اللَّهُ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ)

(Is there any god with Allah Exalted be Allah above all that they associate as partners!)

(أَمَّنْ يَبْدَأُ الْخَلْقَ ثُمَّ يُعِيدُهُ وَمَنْ يَرْزُقُكُمْ مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ أَعْلَهُ مَعَ اللَّهِ قُلْ هَاتُوا بُرْهَانَكُمْ إِن كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ)

(64. Is not He Who originates creation, and shall thereafter repeat it, and Who provides for you from heaven and earth Is there any god with Allah Say: "Bring forth your proofs, if you are truthful.") He is the One Who, by His might and power, originates creation and then repeats it. This is like the Ayat:

(إِنَّ بَطْشَ رَبِّكَ لَشَدِيدٌ - إِنَّهُ هُوَ يُبْدِيءُ وَيُعِيدُ)

(Verily, the punishment of your Lord is severe and painful. Verily, He it is Who begins and repeats.) (85:12-13)

(وَهُوَ الَّذِي يَبْدَأُ الْخَلْقَ ثُمَّ يُعِيدُهُ وَهُوَ أَهْوَنُ عَلَيْهِ)

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

(وَمَنْ يَرْزُقُكُمْ مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ)

(and Who provides for you from heaven and earth) with the rain He sends down from the sky causing the blessings of the earth to grow, as He says elsewhere:

(وَالسَّمَاءِ ذَاتِ الرَّجْعِ - وَالْأَرْضِ ذَاتِ الصَّدْعِ)

(By the sky which gives rain, again and again. And the earth which splits.) (86:11-12)

(يَعْلَمُ مَا يَلْجُ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَا يَخْرُجُ مِنْهَا وَمَا يَنْزِلُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ وَمَا يَعْرُجُ فِيهَا)

(He knows that which goes into the earth and that which comes forth from it, and that which descends from the heaven and that which ascends to it) (34:2). Allah, may He be blessed and exalted, sends down water from the sky as a blessing, and causes it to penetrate the earth, and then come forth as springs. After that, by means of the water He brings forth all kinds of crops, fruits and flowers, in all their different forms and colors.

(كُلُوا وَارْعَوْا أَنْعَمَكُمْ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّأُولِي النُّهَى)

(Eat and pasture your cattle; verily, in this are signs for men of understanding) (20:54). Allah says:

(أَلِلَّةٌ مَّعَ اللّهِ)

(Is there any god with Allah) meaning, who did this Or, according to another interpretation: after this (who could be worth worship)

(قُلْ هَاتُوا بُرْهَانَكُمْ إِن كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ)

(Say: "Bring forth your proofs, if you are truthful.") Produce the evidence of that. But it is known that they have no proof or evidence, as Allah says:

(وَمَنْ يَدْعُ مَعَ اللّهِ إِلَهًا آخَرَ لَا بُرْهَانَ لَهُ بِهِ فَإِنَّمَا حِسَابُهُ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِ إِنَّهُ لَا يُقْلِحُ الْكَافِرُونَ)

(And whoever invokes besides Allah, any other god, of whom he has no proof; then his reckoning is only with his Lord. Surely, the disbelievers will not be successful.) (23:117)

(قُلْ لَا يَعْلَمُ مَنْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ الْغَيْبَ إِلَّا اللّهُ وَمَا يَشْعُرُونَ أَيَّانَ يُبْعَثُونَ - بَلْ أَدْرَكَ عِلْمُهُمْ فِي الْآخِرَةِ بَلْ هُمْ فِي شَكٍّ مِنْهَا بَلْ هُمْ مِنْهَا عَمُونَ)

(65. Say: "None in the heavens and the earth knows the Unseen except Allah, nor can they perceive when they shall be resurrected.") (66. Nay, their knowledge will perceive that in the Hereafter. Nay, they are in doubt about it. Nay, they are in complete blindness about it.)

The One Who knows the Unseen is Allah

Allah commands His Messenger to inform all of creation that no one among the dwellers of heaven and earth knows the Unseen, except Allah.

(إِلَّا اللّهُ)

(except Allah) This is an absolute exception, meaning that no one knows this besides Allah, He is alone in that regard, having no partner in that knowledge. This is like the Ayat:

(وَعِنْدَهُ مَفَاتِحُ الْغَيْبِ لَا يَعْلَمُهَا إِلَّا هُوَ)

(And with Him are the keys of the Unseen, none knows them but He) (6:59).

(إِنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ عِلْمُ السَّاعَةِ وَيُنَزِّلُ الْغَيْثَ)

(Verily, Allah, with Him is the knowledge of the Hour, He sends down the rain) (31:34). until the end of the Surah. And there are many Ayat which mention similar things.

(وَمَا يَشْعُرُونَ أَيَّانَ يُبْعَثُونَ)

(nor can they perceive when they shall be resurrected.) That is, the created beings who dwell in the heavens and on earth do not know when the Hour will occur, as Allah says:

(تَقُلْتُ فِي السَّمَوتِ وَالْأَرْضِ لَا تَأْتِيكُمُ إِلَّا بَعْثَةٌ)

(Heavy is its burden through the heavens and the earth. It shall not come upon you except all of a sudden) (7: 187). meaning, it is a grave matter for the dwellers of heaven and earth.

(بَلْ أَدْرَاكَ عِلْمُهُمْ فِي الْآخِرَةِ بَلْ هُمْ فِي شَكٍّ مِّنْهَا)

(Nay, their knowledge will perceive that in the Hereafter. Nay, they are in doubt about it.) means their knowledge and amazement stops short of knowing its time. Other scholars read this with the meaning "their knowledge is all the same with regard to that," which reflects the meaning of the Hadith in Sahih Muslim which states that the Messenger of Allah said to Jibril, when the latter asked him when the Hour would come: s

«مَا الْمَسْئُولُ عَنْهَا بِأَعْلَمَ مِنَ السَّائِلِ»

(The one who is being asked about it does not know any more than the one who is asking.) In other words, they were both equal in the fact that their knowledge did not extend that far.

(بَلْ هُمْ فِي شَكٍّ مِّنْهَا)

(Nay, they are in doubt about it.) This refers to the disbelievers in general as Allah says elsewhere:

(وَعَرَّضُوا عَلَىٰ رَبِّكَ صَفًا لَّقَدْ جِئْتُمُونَا كَمَا
خَلَقْنَاكُمْ أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ بَلْ زَعَمْتُمْ أَلَّن نَّجْعَلَ لَكُم
مَّوْعِدًا)

(And they will be set before your Lord in rows, (and Allah will say:) "Now indeed, you have come to Us as We created you the first time. Nay, but you thought that We had appointed no meeting for you (with Us). ") (18:48) i.e., the disbelievers among you. By the same token, Allah says here:

(بَلْ هُمْ فِي شَكٍّ مِّنْهَا)

(Nay, they are in doubt about it.) meaning, they doubt that it will come to pass.

(بَلْ هُمْ مِّنْهَا عَمُونَ)

(Nay, they are in complete blindness about it.) They are blind and completely ignorant about it.

(وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَءِذَا كُنَّا تُرَابًا وَءَابَاؤُنَا أَءِنَّا
لَمُخْرَجُونَ - لَقَدْ وَعَدْنَا هَذَا نَحْنُ وَءَابَاؤُنَا مِن
قَبْلُ إِن هَذَا إِلَّا أَسَاطِيرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ)

(قُلْ سِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَانظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ
عَقِبُهُ الْمُجْرِمِينَ - وَلَا تَحْزَنْ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا تَكُن
فِي ضَيْقٍ مِّمَّا يَمْكُرُونَ)

(67. And those who disbelieve say: "When we have become dust -- we and our fathers -- shall we really be brought forth") (68. "Indeed we were promised this -- we and our forefathers before, verily, these are nothing but tales of ancients.") (69. Say to them: "Travel in the land and see how has been the end of the criminals.") (70. And grieve you not over them, nor be straitened (in distress) because of what they plot.)

Allah tells us about the idolators who deny the Resurrection, considering it extremely unlikely that bodies will be re-created after they have become bones and dust. Then He says:

(لَقَدْ وَعَدْنَا هَذَا نَحْنُ وَءَابَاؤُنَا مِنْ قَبْلُ)

(Indeed we were promised this -- we and our forefathers before,) meaning, `we and our forefathers have been hearing this for a long time, but in reality, we have never seen it happen.'

(إِنْ هَذَا إِلَّا أَسْطِيرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ)

(verily, these are nothing but tales of ancients.) the promises that bodies will be restored are

(إِلَّا أَسْطِيرُ الْأَوَّلِينَ)

(nothing but tales of ancients.) meaning that they were taken by the people who came before us from books which were handed down from one to the other, but they have no basis in reality. Responding to their thoughts of disbelief and their belief that there would be no Resurrection, Allah said,

(قُلْ)

(Say) `O Muhammad, to these people,'

(سِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَانظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَقِبَةُ
الْمُجْرِمِينَ)

(Travel in the land and see how has been the end of the criminals.) meaning, those who denied the Messengers and their message of the Resurrection and other matters. See how the punishment and vengeance of Allah struck them and how Allah saved from among them the noble Messengers and the believers who followed them. This will be an indication of the truth of the Message brought by the Messengers. Then, to comfort the Prophet , Allah says:

(وَلَا تَحْزَنْ عَلَيْهِمْ)

(And grieve you not over them,) meaning, `but do not feel sorry for them or kill yourself with regret for them,'

(وَلَا تَكُنْ فِي ضَيْقٍ مِّمَّا يَمْكُرُونَ)

(nor be straitened because of what they plot.) means, `because they plot against you and reject what you have brought, for Allah will help and support you, and cause your religion to prevail over those who oppose you and stubbornly resist you in the east and in the west.'

(وَيَقُولُونَ مَتَى هَذَا الْوَعْدُ إِن كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ قُلْ عَسَى أَنْ يَكُونَ رَدِفَ لَكُمْ بَعْضُ الَّذِي تَسْتَعْجِلُونَ وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَذُو فَضْلٍ عَلَى النَّاسِ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَشْكُرُونَ وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَيَعْلَمُ مَا تُكِنُّ صُدُورُهُمْ وَمَا يُعْلِنُونَ وَمَا مِنْ غَائِبَةٍ فِي السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِلَّا فِي كِتَابٍ مُبِينٍ)

(71. And they say: "When this promise, if you are truthful") (72. Say: "Perhaps that which you wish to hasten on, may be close behind you.") (73. Verily, your Lord is full of grace for mankind, yet most of them do not give thanks.) (74. And verily, your Lord knows what their breasts conceal and what they reveal.) (75. And there is nothing hidden in the heaven and the earth but it is in a Clear Book.) Allah tells us about how the idolators asked about the Day of Resurrection, but thought it unlikely that it would ever come to pass.

(وَيَقُولُونَ مَتَى هَذَا الْوَعْدُ إِن كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ)

(And they say: "When (will) this promise (be fulfilled), if you are truthful") Allah said, responding to them:

(قُلْ)

(Say) `O Muhammad,'

(عَسَى أَنْ يَكُونَ رَدِفَ لَكُمْ بَعْضُ الَّذِي تَسْتَعْجِلُونَ)

(Perhaps that which you wish to hasten on, may be close behind you.) Ibn `Abbas said, "That which you wish to hasten on has come close to you, or some of it has come close." This was also the view of Mujahid, Ad-Dahhak, `Ata Al-Khurasani, Qatadah and As-Suddi. This is also what is meant in the Ayat:

(وَيَقُولُونَ مَتَى هُوَ قُلْ عَسَى أَنْ يَكُونَ قَرِيبًا)

(And they say: "When will that be" Say: "Perhaps it is near!") (17:51)

(يَسْتَعْجِلُونَكَ بِالْعَذَابِ وَإِنَّ جَهَنَّمَ لَمُحِيطَةٌ
بِالْكَافِرِينَ)

(They ask you to hasten on the torment. And verily, Hell, of a surety, will encompass the disbelievers) (29:54).

(عَسَى أَنْ يَكُونَ رَدِفَ لَكُمْ)

(may be close behind you.) means, it is being hastened for you. This was reported from Mujahid. Then Allah says:

(وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَدُوٌّ فَضْلٍ عَلَى النَّاسِ)

(Verily, your Lord is full of grace for mankind,) meaning, He abundantly bestows His blessings on them even though they wrong themselves, yet despite that they do not give thanks for those blessings, except for a few of them.

(وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَيَعْلَمُ مَا تُكِنُّ صُدُورُهُمْ وَمَا يُعْلِنُونَ)

(And verily, your Lord knows what their breasts conceal and what they reveal.) means, He knows what is hidden in their hearts just as He knows what is easily visible.

(سَوَاءٌ مِّنْكُمْ مَّنْ أَسَرَّ الْقَوْلَ وَمَنْ جَهَرَ بِهِ)

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

(يَعْلَمُ السِّرَّ وَأَخْفَى)

(He knows the secret and that which is yet more hidden) (20: 7),

(أَلَا حِينَ يَسْتَغْشُونَ ثِيَابَهُمْ 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). Then Allah tells us that He is the Knower of the unseen in the heavens and on earth, and that He is the Knower of the unseen and the seen, i.e., that which is unseen by His servants and that which they can see. And Allah says:

(وَمَا مِنْ غَائِبَةٍ)

(and there is nothing hidden) Ibn ` Abbas said, "This means, there is nothing

(فِي السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِلَّا فِي كِتَابٍ مُبِينٍ)

(in the heaven and the earth but it is in a Clear Book.) This is like the Ayah,

(أَلَمْ تَعْلَمْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَعْلَمُ مَا فِي السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِنَّ ذَلِكَ فِي كِتَابٍ إِنَّ ذَلِكَ عَلَى اللَّهِ يَسِيرٌ)

(Know you not that Allah knows all that is in the heaven and on the earth Verily, it is (all) in the Book. Verily, that is easy for Allah.) (22:70)

(إِنَّ هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ يَفْصُّ عَلَى بَنِي إِسْرَءِيلَ أَكْثَرَ الَّذِي هُمْ فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ - وَإِنَّهُ لَهْدَى وَرَحْمَةٌ لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ - إِنَّ رَبَّكَ يَقْضِي بَيْنَهُم بِحُكْمِهِ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْعَلِيمُ - فَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ إِنَّكَ عَلَى الْحَقِّ الْمُبِينِ - إِنَّكَ لَا تُسْمِعُ الْمَوْتَى وَلَا تُسْمِعُ الصُّمَّ الدُّعَاءَ إِذَا وَلَّوْا مُدْبِرِينَ - وَمَا أَنْتَ بِهَادِيَ الْعُمْى عَن ضَلَالَتِهِمْ إِنْ تُسْمِعُ إِلَّا مَنْ يُؤْمِنُ بِآيَاتِنَا فَهُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ)

(76. Verily, this Qur'an narrates to the Children of Israel most of that in which they differ.) (77. And truly, it is a guide and a mercy for the believers.) (78. Verily, your Lord will decide between them by His judgement. And He is the All-Mighty, the All-Knowing.) (79. So, put your trust in Allah; surely, you are on manifest truth.) (80. Verily, you cannot make the dead to hear nor can you make the deaf to hear the call, when they flee, turning their backs.) (81. Nor can

you lead the blind out of their error. You can only make to hear those who believe in Our Ayat, so they submit (became Muslims).)

The Qur'an tells the Story of the Differences among the Children of Israel, and Allah judges between Them

Allah tells us about His Book and the guidance, proof and criterion between right and wrong that it contains. He tells us about the Children of Israel, who were the bearers of the Tawrah and Injil.

(أَكْثَرَ الَّذِي هُمْ فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ)

(most of that in which they differ.) such as their different opinions about `Isa. The Jews lied about him while the Christians exaggerated in praise for him, so the Qur'an came with the moderate word of truth and justice: that he was one of the servants of Allah, and one of His noble Prophets and Messengers, may the best of peace and blessings be upon him, as the Qur'an says:

(ذَلِكَ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ قَوْلَ الْحَقِّ الَّذِي فِيهِ يَمْتَرُونَ)

(Such is `Isa, son of Maryam. (It is) a statement of truth, about which they doubt) (19:34).

(وَإِنَّهُ لَهْدَىٰ وَرَحْمَةٌ لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ)

(And truly, it is a guide and a mercy for the believers.) meaning, it is guidance for the hearts of those who believe in it, and a mercy to them. Then Allah says:

(إِنَّ رَبَّكَ يَقْضِي بَيْنَهُمْ)

(Verily, your Lord will decide between them) meaning, on the Day of Resurrection,

(بِحُكْمِهِ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ)

(by His judgement. And He is the All-Mighty,) means, in His vengeance,

(الْعَلِيمُ)

(the All-Knowing.) Who knows all that His servants do and say.

The Command to put One's Trust in Allah and to convey the Message

(فَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ)

(So, put your trust in Allah;) in all your affairs, and convey the Message of your Lord.

(إِنَّكَ عَلَى الْحَقِّ الْمُبِينِ)

(surely, you are on manifest truth.) meaning, you are following manifest truth, even though you are opposed by those who oppose you because they are doomed. The Word of your Lord has been justified against them, so that they will not believe even if all the signs are brought to them. Allah says:

(إِنَّكَ لَا تَسْمِعُ الْمَوْتَى)

(Verily, you cannot make the dead to hear) meaning, you cannot cause them to hear anything that will benefit them. The same applies to those over whose hearts is a veil and in whose ears is deafness of disbelief. Allah says:

(وَلَا تَسْمِعُ الصَّمَّ الدُّعَاءَ إِذَا وَلَّوْا مُدْبِرِينَ)

وَمَا أَنْتَ بِهَادِيَ الْعُمْى عَنْ ضَلَالَتِهِمْ إِنْ تَسْمِعُ إِلَّا مَنْ يُؤْمِنُ بِآيَاتِنَا فَهُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ-

(nor can you make the deaf to hear the call, when they flee, turning their backs. Nor can you lead the blind out of their error. You can only make to hear those who believe in Our Ayat, so they submit (became Muslims).) meaning, those who have hearing and insight will respond to you, those whose hearing and sight are of benefit to their hearts and who are humble towards Allah and to the Message that comes to them through the mouths of the Messengers, may peace be upon them.

(وَإِذَا وَقَعَ الْقَوْلُ عَلَيْهِمْ أَخْرَجْنَا لَهُمْ دَابَّةً مِّنَ الْأَرْضِ تُكَلِّمُهُمْ أَنَّ النَّاسَ كَانُوا بِآيَاتِنَا لَا يُوقِنُونَ)

(82. And when the Word is fulfilled against them, We shall bring out from the earth a beast for them, to speak to them because mankind believed not with certainty in Our Ayat.)

The Emergence of the Beast of the Earth

This is the beast which will emerge at the end of time, when mankind has become corrupt and neglected the commands of Allah and changed the true religion. Then Allah will cause a beast to emerge from the earth. It was said that it will be brought from Makkah, or from somewhere else, as we shall discuss in detail below, if Allah wills. The beast will speak to people about matters. Ibn `Abbas, Al-Hasan and Qatadah said, and it was also narrated from `Ali, may Allah be pleased with him, that it will speak words, meaning, it will address them. Many Hadiths and reports have been narrated about the beast, and we will narrate as many of them as Allah enables us to, for He is the One Whose help we seek. Imam Ahmad recorded that Hudhayfah bin Asid Al-Ghifari said, "The Messenger of Allah came out from his room while we were discussing the matter of the Hour. He said:

«لَا تَقُومُ السَّاعَةُ حَتَّى تَرَوْا عَشْرَ آيَاتٍ: طُلُوعُ الشَّمْسِ مِنْ مَغْرِبِهَا، وَالْدُّخَانُ وَالْدَّابَّةُ وَخُرُوجُ يَاجُوجَ وَمَأْجُوجَ، وَخُرُوجُ عِيسَى ابْنِ مَرْيَمَ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ، وَالْدَّجَالُ، وَثَلَاثَةُ خُسُوفٍ: خَسْفٌ بِالْمَغْرِبِ، وَخَسْفٌ بِالْمَشْرِقِ، وَخَسْفٌ بِجَزِيرَةِ الْعَرَبِ، وَنَارٌ تَخْرُجُ مِنْ قَعْرِ عَدَنٍ تَسُوقُ أَوْ تَحْشُرُ النَّاسَ، تَبَيَّتْ مَعَهُمْ حَيْثُ بَآثُوا وَتَقِيلُ مَعَهُمْ حَيْثُ قَالُوا»

(The Hour will not come until you see ten signs: the rising of the sun from the west; the smoke (Ad-Dukhan); emergence of the beast; the emergence of Ya'juj and Ma'juj; the appearance of `Isa bin Maryam, upon him be peace; the Dajjal; and three land cave-ins, one in the west, one in the east and one in the Arabian Peninsula; and a Fire which will emerge from the midst of Yemen, and will drive or gather the people, stopping with them whenever they stop for the night or to rest during the day.)" This was also recorded by Muslim and the Sunan compilers from Hudhayfah, in a Mawquf report. At-Tirmidhi said, "It is Hasan Sahih." It was also recorded by Muslim from Hudhayfah in a Marfu` report. And Allah knows best.

Another Hadith

Muslim bin Al-Hajjaj recorded that `Abdullah bin `Amr said, "I memorized a Hadith from the Messenger of Allah which I never forgot afterwards. I heard the Messenger of Allah say:

«إِنَّ أَوَّلَ الْآيَاتِ خُرُوجًا طُلُوعُ الشَّمْسِ مِنْ مَغْرِبِهَا، وَخُرُوجُ الدَّابَّةِ عَلَى النَّاسِ ضُحًى، وَأَيُّهُمَا مَا كَانَتْ قَبْلَ صَاحِبَتِهَا فَالْآخَرَى عَلَى إِثْرِهَا قَرِيبًا»

(The first of the signs to appear will be the rising of the sun from the west, and the emergence of the beast to mankind in the forenoon. Whichever of them appears first, the other will follow close behind it.)

Another Hadith

his Sahih, Muslim recorded that Abu Hurayrah, may Allah be pleased with him, said that the Messenger of Allah said:

«بَادِرُوا بِالْأَعْمَالِ سِتًّا، طُلُوعَ الشَّمْسِ مِنْ مَغْرِبِهَا، وَالْدُّخَانَ، وَالْدَّجَالَ، وَالْدَّابَّةَ، وَخَاصَّةً أَحَدِكُمْ، وَأَمْرَ الْعَامَّةِ»

(Hasten to do good deeds before six things appear: the rising of the sun from the west; the smoke; the Dajjal; the beast; the (death) of one of your favorite, or general affliction.) This was recorded by Muslim alone. Muslim also recorded that Abu Hurayrah, may Allah be pleased with him, said that the the Prophet said:

«بَادِرُوا بِالْأَعْمَالِ سِتًّا: الدَّجَالُ، وَالْدُّخَانُ، وَدَابَّةُ الْأَرْضِ، وَطُلُوعُ الشَّمْسِ مِنْ مَغْرِبِهَا، وَأَمْرَ الْعَامَّةِ، وَخُيُصَّةٌ أَحَدِكُمْ»

(Hasten to do good deeds before six things appear: the Dajjal; the smoke; the beast of the earth; the rising of the sun from the west; and the (death of one of your favorite) or general affliction.)

Another Hadith

«بَادِرُوا بِالْأَعْمَالِ سِتًّا: طُلُوعَ الشَّمْسِ مِنْ مَغْرِبِهَا، وَالذُّخَانَ، وَالْدَّابَّةَ، الدَّجَالَ، وَخُوصَةَ أَحَدِكُمْ، وَأَمْرَ الْعَامَّةِ»

(Hasten to do good deeds before six things appear: the rising of the sun from the west; the smoke; the beast; the Dajjal; and the (death of one of your favorite) or general affliction.) He was the only one who recorded this version.

Another Hadith

Abu Dawud At-Tayalisi recorded from Abu Hurayrah, may Allah be pleased with him, that the Messenger of Allah said:

«تَخْرُجُ دَابَّةُ الْأَرْضِ وَمَعَهَا عَصَا مُوسَى وَخَاتَمُ سُلَيْمَانَ عَلَيْهِمَا السَّلَامُ، فَتَخْطُمُ أَنْفَ الْكَافِرِ بِالْعَصَا، وَتُجَلِّي وَجْهَ الْمُؤْمِنِ بِالْخَاتَمِ، حَتَّى يَجْتَمَعَ النَّاسُ عَلَى الْخِوَانِ يُعْرِفُ الْمُؤْمِنُ مِنَ الْكَافِرِ»

(A beast will emerge from the earth, and with it will be the staff of Musa and the ring of Sulayman, peace be upon them both. It will strike the nose of the disbelievers with the staff, and it will make the face of the believer bright with the ring, until when people gather to eat, they will be able to recognize the believers from the disbelievers.) It also was recorded by Imam Ahmad, with the wording:

«فَتَخْطُمُ أَنْفَ الْكَافِرِ بِالْخَاتَمِ، وَتَجْلُو وَجْهَ الْمُؤْمِنِ بِالْعَصَا، حَتَّى إِنَّ أَهْلَ الْخِوَانِ الْوَاحِدِ

لِيَجْتَمِعُونَ فَيَقُولُ هَذَا: يَا مُؤْمِنٌ، وَيَقُولُ هَذَا: يَا
كَافِرٌ»

(It will strike the nose of the disbelievers with the ring, and will make the face of the believer bright with the staff, until when people gather for a meal, they will say to one another, O believer, or O disbeliever.) It was also recorded by Ibn Majah. Ibn Jurayj reported that Ibn Az Zubayr described the beast and said, "Its head is like the head of a bull, its eyes are like the eyes of a pig, its ears are like the ears of an elephant, its horns are like the horns of a stag, its neck is like the neck of an ostrich, its chest is like the chest of a lion, its color is like the colour of a tiger, its haunches are like the haunches of a cat, its tail is like the tail of a ram, and its legs are like the legs of a camel. Between each pair of its joints is a distance of twelve cubits. It will bring out with it the staff of Musa and the ring of Sulayman. There will be no believer left without it making a white spot on his face, which will spread until all his face is shining white as a result; and there will be no disbeliever left without it making a black spot on his face, which will spread until all his face is black as a result, then when the people trade with one another in the marketplace, they will say, 'How much is this, O believer' 'How much is this, O disbeliever' And when the members of one household sit down together to eat, they will know who is a believer and who is a disbeliever. Then the beast will say: 'O so-and-so, enjoy yourself, for you are among the people of Paradise.' And it will say: 'O so-and-so, you are among the people of Hell,' This is what Allah says:

(وَإِذَا وَقَعَ الْقَوْلُ عَلَيْهِمْ أَخْرَجْنَا لَهُمْ دَابَّةً مِّنَ
الْأَرْضِ تُكَلِّمُهُمْ أَنَّ النَّاسَ كَانُوا بِآيَاتِنَا لَا
يُوقِنُونَ)

(And when the Word is fulfilled against them, We shall bring out from the earth a beast for them, to speak to them because mankind believed not with certainty in Our Ayat.)

(وَيَوْمَ نَحْشُرُ مِن كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ فَوْجًا مِّمَّنْ يُكَذِّبُ
بِآيَاتِنَا فَهُمْ يُوزَعُونَ)

(حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءُوا قَالَ أَكَذَّبْتُمْ بِآيَاتِي وَلَمْ تُحِطُوا
بِهَا عِلْمًا أَمْ دَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ - وَوَقَعَ الْقَوْلُ
عَلَيْهِمْ بِمَا ظَلَمُوا فَهُمْ لَا يَنْطِقُونَ - أَلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّا

جَعَلْنَا اللَّيْلَ لَيْسَكُنُوا فِيهِ وَالنَّهَارَ مُبْصِرًا إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ)

(83. And (remember) the Day when We shall gather out of every nation a Fawj of those who denied Our Ayat, and they shall be driven,) (84. Till, when they come, He will say: "Did you deny My Ayat whereas you comprehended them not by knowledge, or what was it that you used to do") (85. And the Word will be fulfilled against them, because they have done wrong, and they will be unable to speak.) (86. See they not that We have made the night for them to rest therein, and the day sight-giving Verily, in this are Ayat for the people who believe.)

Gathering the Wrongdoers on the Day of Resurrection

Allah tells us about the Day of Resurrection when the wrongdoers who disbelieved in the signs and Messengers of Allah will be gathered before Allah, so that He will ask them about what they did in this world, rebuking, scolding and belittling them.

(وَيَوْمَ نَحْشُرُ مِنْ كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ فَوْجًا)

(And the Day when We shall gather out of every nation, a Fawj) means, from every people and generation a group

(مِّمَّنْ يُكَدِّبُ بِآيَاتِنَا)

(of those who denied Our Ayat). This is like the Ayat:

(احْشُرُوا الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا وَأَزْوَاجَهُمْ)

("Assemble those who did wrong, together with their companions (from the devils).") (37:22)

(وَإِذَا النُّفُوسُ زُوِّجَتْ)

(And when the souls are joined with their bodies) (81:7).

(فَهُمْ يُوزَعُونَ)

(and they shall be driven,) Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said: "They will be pushed." `Abdur-Rahman bin Zayd bin Aslam said: "They will be driven."

(حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءُوا)

(Till, when they come,) and stand before Allah, may He be glorified and exalted, in the place of reckoning,

(قَالَ أَكْذَبْتُمْ بَايَتِي وَلَمْ تُحِيطُوا بِهَا عِلْمًا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ)

(He will say: "Did you deny My Ayat whereas you comprehended them not by knowledge, or what was it that you used to do") meaning they will be asked about their beliefs and their deeds. Since they are among the doomed and, as Allah says:

(فَلَا صَدَقَ وَلَا صَلَّى - وَلَكِنْ كَذَّبَ وَتَوَلَّى)

(He neither believed nor performed Salah! But on the contrary, he denied and turned away!) (75:31-32) Then the proof will be established against them and they will have no excuse whatsoever, as Allah says:

(هَذَا يَوْمٌ لَا يَنْطِقُونَ - وَلَا يُؤَدِّنُ لَهُمْ فَيَعْتَذِرُونَ)

(That will be a Day when they shall not speak. And they will not be permitted to put forth any excuse) (77:35-36). Similarly, Allah says here:

(وَوَقَعَ الْقَوْلُ عَلَيْهِمْ بِمَا ظَلَمُوا فَهُمْ لَا يَنْطِقُونَ)

(And the Word will be fulfilled against them, because they have done wrong, and they will be unable to speak.) They will be stunned and speechless, unable to give any answer. This is because they wronged themselves in the world, and now they have returned to the One Who sees the unseen and the seen, from Whom nothing can be hidden. Then Allah points out His complete power, immense authority and greatness, all dictating that He is to be obeyed and that His commands must be followed, and that the message of inescapable truth brought by His Prophets must be believed in. Allah says:

(أَلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّا جَعَلْنَا اللَّيْلَ لَيْسَكُنُوا فِيهِ)

(See they not that We have made the night for them to rest therein,) Due to the darkness of the night they halt their activities and calm themselves down, to recover from the exhausting efforts of the day.

(وَالنَّهَارَ مُبْصِرًا)

(and the day sight-giving) meaning filled with light, so that they can work and earn a living, and travel and engage in business, and do other things that they need to do.

(إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ)

(Verily, in this are Ayat for the people who believe.)

(وَيَوْمَ يُنْفَخُ فِي الصُّورِ فَفَزِعَ مَنْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ
وَمَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَّا مَنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ وَكُلُّ أَتَوْهُ
دَخِيرِينَ - وَتَرَى الْجِبَالَ تَحْسَبُهَا جَامِدَةً وَهِيَ
تَمُرُّ مَرَّ السَّحَابِ صُنْعَ اللَّهِ الَّذِي أَتَقَنَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ
إِنَّهُ خَيْرٌ بِمَا تَفْعَلُونَ - مَنْ جَاءَ بِالْحَسَنَةِ فَلَهُ
خَيْرٌ مِّنْهَا وَهُمْ مِّنْ فَزَعٍ يَوْمَئِذٍ ءَامِنُونَ - وَمَنْ
جَاءَ بِالسَّيِّئَةِ فَكُبَّتْ وُجُوهُهُمْ فِي النَّارِ هَلْ
تُجْزَوْنَ إِلَّا مَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ)

(87. And (remember) the Day on which the Trumpet (Sur) will be blown -- and all who are in the heavens and all who are on the earth, will be terrified except him whom Allah wills. And all shall come to Him, humbled.) (88. And you will see the mountains and think them solid, but they shall pass away as the passing away of the clouds. The work of Allah, Who perfected all things, verily, He is well-acquainted with what you do.) (89. Whoever brings a good deed, will have better than its worth; and they will be safe from the terror on that Day.) (90. And whoever brings an evil deed, they will be cast down on their faces in the Fire. (And it will be said to them) "Are you being recompensed anything except what you used to do")

The Terrors of the Day of Resurrection, the Rewards for Good Deeds and the Punishments for Evil Deeds

Allah tells us about the terrors of the Day when the Sur will be blown. The Sur, as described in the Hadith, is,

«قَرْنٌ يُنْفَخُ فِيهِ»

(a horn which is blown into.) According to the Sur (Trumpet), it is (the angel) Israfil who will blow into it by the command of Allah, may He be exalted. He will blow into it for the first time, for a long time. This will signal the end of the life of this world, and the Hour will come upon the most evil of people ever to live. Everyone who is in the heavens and on earth will be terrified,

(إِلَّا مَنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ)

(except him whom Allah wills.) these are the martyrs, for they are alive, with their Lord, and being provided for. Imam Muslim bin Al-Hajjaj recorded that `Abdullah bin `Amr, may Allah be pleased with him, said that a man came to him and said, "What is this Hadith that you are narrating, that the Hour will come upon such and such people" He said, "Subhan Allah or `La Ilaha Illallah (or something similar), I had decided that I would not narrate anything to anyone now. I had only said that after a little while, you will see a major event which will destroy the House )the Ka`bah(, and such and such will happen." Then he said, "The Messenger of Allah said:

«يَخْرُجُ الدَّجَالُ فِي أُمَّتِي فَيَمُكْتُ أَرْبَعِينَ لَأُذْرِي أَرْبَعِينَ يَوْمًا أَوْ أَرْبَعِينَ شَهْرًا أَوْ أَرْبَعِينَ عَامًا فَيَبْعَثُ اللَّهُ عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ كَأَنَّهُ عُرْوَةٌ بَنُ مَسْعُودٍ فَيَطْلُبُهُ فَيُهْلِكُهُ، ثُمَّ يَمُكْتُ النَّاسُ سَبْعَ سِنِينَ لَيْسَ بَيْنَ اثْنَيْنِ عَدَاوَةٌ، ثُمَّ يُرْسِلُ اللَّهُ رِيحًا بَارِدَةً مِنْ قِبَلِ الشَّامِ، فَلَا يَبْقَى عَلَى وَجْهِ الْأَرْضِ أَحَدٌ فِي قَلْبِهِ مِثْقَالُ ذَرَّةٍ مِنْ خَيْرٍ أَوْ إِيْمَانٍ إِلَّا قُبِضَتْهُ، حَتَّى لَوْ أَنَّ أَحَدَكُمْ دَخَلَ فِي كَيْدِ جَبَلٍ لَدَخَلَتْهُ عَلَيْهِ حَتَّى تَقْبِضَهُ»

(The Dajjal will emerge in my Ummah, and will remain for forty -- I do not know whether he said forty days, or forty months, or forty years -- then Allah will send `Isa son of Maryam, who looks like `Urwah bin Mas`ud, and he will search for him and destroy him. Then mankind will remain for seven years during which there will not be any enmity between any two people. Then Allah will send a cool wind from the direction of Syria, and no one will be left on the face of the earth who has even a speck of goodness or faith in his heart, but it will take him. Even if he entered into the heart of a mountain, the wind would follow him and seize him.)" He said, "I heard it from the Messenger of Allah who said:

«فَيَبْقَى شِرَارُ النَّاسِ فِي خِقَةِ الطَّيْرِ وَأَحْلَامِ
السَّبَّاحِ لَا يَعْرِفُونَ مَعْرُوفًا، وَلَا يُنْكِرُونَ مُنْكَرًا،
فَيَتَمَثَّلُ لَهُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ فَيَقُولُ: أَلَا تَسْتَحْيُونَ؟
فَيَقُولُونَ: فَمَا تَأْمُرُنَا؟ فَيَأْمُرُهُمْ بِعِبَادَةِ الْأَوْثَانِ،
وَهُمْ فِي ذَلِكَ دَارُ رِزْقِهِمْ حَسَنٌ عَيْشُهُمْ، ثُمَّ يُنْفَخُ
فِي الصُّورِ فَلَا يَسْمَعُهُ أَحَدٌ إِلَّا أَصْغَى لَيْثًا وَرَفَعَ
لَيْثًا قَالَ وَأَوَّلُ مَنْ يَسْمَعُهُ رَجُلٌ يَلُوطُ حَوْضَ
إِلِيلِهِ، قَالَ: فَيَصْعَقُ وَيَصْعَقُ النَّاسُ، ثُمَّ يُرْسِلُ
اللَّهُ أَوْ قَالَ يُنْزِلُ اللَّهُ مَطَرًا كَأَنَّهُ الطَّلُّ أَوْ
قَالَ: الظَّلُّ نُعْمَانُ الشَّاكُّ فَتَنَبَّتُ مِنْهُ أَجْسَادُ
النَّاسِ، ثُمَّ يُنْفَخُ فِيهِ أُخْرَى فَإِذَا هُمْ قِيَامٌ يَنْظُرُونَ،
ثُمَّ يُقَالُ: يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ هَلُمُّوا إِلَى رَبِّكُمْ وَقِفُوهُمْ
إِنَّهُمْ مَسْئُورُونَ، ثُمَّ يُقَالُ: أَخْرِجُوا بَعَثَ النَّارَ،
فَيُقَالُ: مِنْ كَمْ؟ فَيُقَالُ: مِنْ كُلِّ أَلْفٍ تِسْعِمِائَةٍ
وَتِسْعَةٍ وَتِسْعِينَ، قَالَ: فَذَلِكَ يَوْمَ يَجْعَلُ الْوِلْدَانَ
شِيبًا، وَذَلِكَ يَوْمَ يُكْشَفُ عَنْ سَاقٍ»

(Then the most evil of people will remain, and they will be as nimble as birds and will be more temperamental than wild beasts. They will not recognize anything good or denounce anything evil. The Shaytan will appear to them and will say, "Will you do as I tell you" They will say, "What do you command us to do" He will command them to worship idols but in spite of this their provision will be plentiful and they will lead comfortable lives. Then the Sur (Trumpet) will be blown, and no one will hear it but he will tilt his head to hear the sound. The first person to hear it will be a man who is setting up the tank for watering his camels. He will fall

down, and all the other people will also fall down. Then Allah will send -- or he said, like shade (Nu'man was the one who was not sure) -- from which will grow the bodies of the people. Then the Trumpet will be blown again, and they will get up and look around. Then it will be said: "O mankind! Go to your Lord!" And they will be stopped, for they are to be questioned. Then it will be said: "Bring forth the people who are to be sent to the Fire." It will be asked: "How many are they" It will be said, "Out of every thousand, nine hundred and ninety-nine." That will be the Day which will make the children grey-headed, and that will be the Day when the Shin shall be uncovered.) His saying;

«ثُمَّ يُنْفَخُ فِي الصُّورِ فَلَا يَسْمَعُهُ أَحَدٌ إِلَّا أَصْغَى
لَيْتًا وَرَفَعَ لَيْتًا»

(Then the Sur (Trumpet) will be blown, and no one will hear it but he will tilt his head to hear the sound.) means that they will tilt their heads so that they can better hear the sound coming from the heavens. That is the blast of the Sur which will terrify everyone, then after that will come the blast which will cause them to die, then the blast which will resurrect them to meet the Lord of the worlds -- this is when all of the creation will be brought forth from their graves. Allah says:

(وَكُلُّ أُمَّةٍ آتَاهُ دَخْرِين)

(And all shall come to Him, humbled.) meaning, humbling themselves and obeying Him, and no one will go against His command. This is like the Ayat:

(يَوْمَ يَدْعُوكُمْ فَتَسْتَجِيبُونَ بِحَمْدِهِ)

(On the Day when He will call you, and you will answer with His praise and obedience) (17:52).

(ثُمَّ إِذَا دَعَاكُمْ دَعْوَةً مِّنَ الْأَرْضِ إِذَا أَنْتُمْ
تَخْرُجُونَ)

(Then afterwards when He will call you by a single call, behold, you will come out from the earth) (30:25). According to the Hadith about the Sur, when it is blown for the third time, Allah will command the souls to be put into the hole of the Sur (Trumpet), then Israfil will blow into it, after the bodies have grown in their graves and resting places, and when he blows into the Sur (Trumpet), the souls will fly, the believers' souls glowing with light, and the disbelievers' souls looking like darkness. And Allah will say: "By My might and majesty, every soul will go back to its body." And the souls will come back to their bodies and go through them like poison going through a person who is bitten or stung by a poisonous creature. Then they will get up, brushing off the dirt of their graves. Allah says:

(يَوْمَ يَخْرُجُونَ مِنَ الْأَجْدَاثِ سِرَّاعًا كَأَنَّهُمْ إِلَىٰ نُصُبٍ يُوفِضُونَ)

(The Day when they will come out of the graves quickly as racing to a goal.) (70:43)

(وَتَرَى الْجِبَالَ تَحْسَبُهَا جَامِدَةً وَهِيَ تَمُرُّ مَرَّ السَّحَابِ)

(And you will see the mountains and think them solid, but they shall pass away as the passing away of the clouds.) (27:88) meaning, you will see them as if they are fixed and as if they will remain as they are, but they will pass away as the passing away of the clouds, i.e., they will move away from their places. This is like the Ayat:

(يَوْمَ تَمُورُ السَّمَاءُ مَوْرًا - وَتَسِيرُ الْجِبَالُ سَيْرًا)

(On the Day when the heaven will shake with a dreadful shaking, And the mountains will move away with a (horrible) movement.) (52:9-10)

(وَيَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الْجِبَالِ فَقُلْ يَنْسِفُهَا رَبِّي نَسْفًا -
فَيَذَرُهَا قَاعًا صَفْصَفًا - لَا تَرَى فِيهَا عِوَجًا وَلَا أَمْتًا)

(And they ask you concerning the mountains: say, "My Lord will blast them and scatter them as particles of dust. Then He shall leave them as a level smooth plain. You will see therein nothing crooked or curved.") (20:105-107),

(" وَيَوْمَ نُسَيِّرُ الْجِبَالَ وَتَرَى الْأَرْضَ بَارِزَةً)

(And (remember) the Day We shall cause the mountains to pass away, and you will see the earth as a leveled plain.) (18:47).

(صُنِعَ اللَّهُ الَّذِي أَتَقَنَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ)

(The work of Allah, Who perfected all things,) means, He does that by His great power.

(الَّذِي أَثْقَنَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ)

(Who perfected all things,) means, He has perfected all that He has created, and has fashioned it according to His wisdom.

(إِنَّهُ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَفْعَلُونَ)

(verily, He is well-acquainted with what you do) means, He knows all that His servants do, good or evil, and He will reward or punish them accordingly. Then Allah describes the state of the blessed and the doomed on that Day, and says:

(مَنْ جَاءَ بِالْحَسَنَةِ فَلَهُ خَيْرٌ مِنْهَا)

(Whoever brings a good deed, will have better than its worth.) Qatadah said, "That is sincerely for Allah alone." Allah has explained elsewhere in the Qur'an that He will give ten like it.

(وَهُمْ مِّنْ فَرْعٍ يَوْمَئِذٍ ءَامِنُونَ)

(and they will be safe from the terror on that Day.) This is like the Ayah,

(لَا يَحْزَنُهُمُ الْفَزَعُ الْأَكْبَرُ)

(The greatest terror will not grieve them) (21:103) and Allah said:

(أَفَمَن يُلْقَىٰ فِي النَّارِ خَيْرٌ أَمْ مَّن يَأْتِي ءَامِنًا يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ)

(Is he who is cast into the Fire better or he who comes secure on the Day of Resurrection) (41:40),

(وَهُمْ فِي الْعُرُقَاتِ ءَامِنُونَ)

(and they will reside in the high dwellings in peace and security) (34:37).

(وَمَن جَاءَ بِالسَّيِّئَةِ فَكُبَّتْ وَجُوهُهُمْ فِي النَّارِ)

(And whoever brings an evil deed, they will be cast down on their faces in the Fire.) means, whoever comes to Allah with evil deeds, and with no good deeds to his credit, or whose evil deeds outweigh his good deeds. Allah says:

(هَلْ تُجْزَوْنَ إِلَّا مَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ)

((And it will be said to them) "Are you being recompensed anything except what you used to do")

(إِنَّمَا أُمِرْتُ أَنْ أَعْبُدَ رَبَّ هَذِهِ الْبَلَدَةِ الَّذِي
حَرَّمَهَا وَلَهُ كُلُّ شَيْءٍ وَأُمِرْتُ أَنْ أَكُونَ مِنَ
الْمُسْلِمِينَ - وَأَنْ أَتْلُو الْقُرْآنَ فَمَنِ اهْتَدَىٰ فَإِنَّمَا
يَهْتَدِيَ لِنَفْسِهِ وَمَنْ ضَلَّ فَقُلْ إِنَّمَا أَنَا مِنَ
الْمُنْذِرِينَ - وَقُلِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ سَيُرِيكُمْ آيَاتِهِ
فَتَعْرِفُونَهَا وَمَا رَبُّكَ بِغَفِلٍ عَمَّا تَعْمَلُونَ)

(91. I have been commanded only to worship the Lord of this city, Who has sanctified it and to Whom belongs everything. And I am commanded to be from among the Muslims.) (92. And that I should recite the Qur'an, then whosoever receives guidance, receives it for the good of himself; and whosoever goes astray, say (to him): "I am only one of the warners.") (93. And say: "All the praises and thanks be to Allah. He will show you His Ayat, and you shall recognize them. And your Lord is not unaware of what you do.")

The Command to worship Allah and to call People with the Qur'an

Allah commands His Messenger to say:

(إِنَّمَا أُمِرْتُ أَنْ أَعْبُدَ رَبَّ هَذِهِ الْبَلَدَةِ الَّذِي
حَرَّمَهَا وَلَهُ كُلُّ شَيْءٍ)

(I have been commanded only to worship the Lord of this city, Who has sanctified it and to Whom belongs everything.) This is like the Ayah,

(قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِن كُنْتُمْ فِي شَكٍّ مِّن دِينِي فَلَا
أَعْبُدُ الَّذِينَ تَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ وَلَكِن أَعْبُدُ اللَّهَ
الَّذِي يَتَوَقَّأَكُم)

(Say: "O you mankind! If you are in doubt as to my religion, then (know that) I will never worship those whom you worship besides Allah. But I worship Allah Who causes you to die.) (10:104) The fact that the word "Rabb" (Lord) is connected to the word city (in the phrase "the Lord of this city") is a sign of honor and divine care for that city. This is like the Ayah,

(فَلْيَعْبُدُوا رَبَّ هَذَا الْبَيْتِ - الَّذِي أَطْعَمَهُم مِّنْ
جُوعٍ وَءَامَنَهُم مِّنْ خَوْفٍ)

(So let them worship the Lord of this House (the Ka`bah), Who has fed them against hunger, and has made them safe from fear.) (106:3-4)

(الَّذِي حَرَّمَهَا)

(Who has sanctified it) means, the One Who made it a sanctuary by His Law and by His decree, making it sanctified. It was recorded in the Two Sahihs that Ibn `Abbas said: "On the day of the conquest of Makkah, the Messenger of Allah said:

«إِنَّ هَذَا الْبَلَدَ حَرَّمَهُ اللَّهُ يَوْمَ خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ
وَالْأَرْضَ، فَهُوَ حَرَامٌ بِحُرْمَةِ اللَّهِ إِلَى يَوْمِ
الْقِيَامَةِ، لَا يُعْضَدُ شَوْكُهُ، وَلَا يُنْقَرُ صَيْدُهُ وَلَا
يَلْتَقِطُ لُقْطَتُهُ إِلَّا مَنْ عَرَفَهَا وَلَا يُخْتَلَى خَلَاهَا»

(Verily, this city was made sacred by Allah the day He created the heavens and the earth, so it is sacred by the sanctity of Allah until the Day of Resurrection. Its thorny bushes should not be cut, its game should not be chased, and its lost property should not be picked up except by one who would announce it publicly and none is allowed to uproot its thorny shrubs...) This was reported in Sahih, Hasan, Musnad narrations, through various routes, by such a large group that it is absolutely unquestionable, as has been explained in the appropriate place in the book Al-Ahkam, to Allah is the praise and thanks.

(وَلَهُ كُلُّ شَيْءٍ)

(and to Whom belongs everything.) This is a statement of general application following a specific statement, i.e., He is the Lord of this city, and the Lord and Sovereign of all things, there is no god worthy of worship besides Him.

(وَأْمِرْتُ أَنْ أَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ)

(And I am commanded to be from among the Muslims.) means, those who believe in Allah alone, who are sincere towards Him and who obediently follow His commands.

(وَأَنْ أَتْلُو الْقُرْآنَ)

(And that I should recite the Qur'an,) means, to people, so as to convey it to them. This is like the Ayah,

(ذَلِكَ نَتْلُوهُ عَلَيْكَ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ)

(This is what We recite to you of the Ayat and the Wise Reminder.) (3:58)

(نَتْلُوا عَلَيْكَ مِنْ نَبَأِ مُوسَىٰ وَفِرْعَوْنَ بِالْحَقِّ)

(We recite to you some of the news of Musa and Fir`awn in truth.) (28:3) meaning, 'I am a conveyer and a warner.'

(فَمَنْ اهْتَدَىٰ فَإِنَّمَا يَهْتَدِي لِنَفْسِهِ وَمَنْ ضَلَّ فَقُلْ
إِنَّمَا أَنَا مِنَ الْمُنذِرِينَ)

(then whosoever receives guidance, receives it for the good of himself; and whosoever goes astray, say (to him): "I am only one of the warners.") meaning, 'I have an example to follow in the Messengers who warned their people, and did what they had to do in order to convey the Message to them and fulfil the covenant they had made.' Allah will judge their nations to whom they were sent, as He says:

(فَإِنَّمَا عَلَيْكَ الْبَلْغُ وَعَلَيْنَا الْحِسَابُ)

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

(إِنَّمَا أَنْتَ نَذِيرٌ وَاللَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَكِيلٌ)

(But you are only a warner. And Allah is a Protector over all thing) (11:12).

(وَقُلِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ سَيُرِيكُمْ آيَاتِهِ فَتَعْرِفُونَهَا)

(And say: "All the praises and thanks be to Allah. He will show you His Ayat (signs), and you shall recognize them.) means, praise be to Allah, Who does not punish anyone except after establishing plea against him, warning him)and leaving him with no excuse(. Allah says:

(سَيُرِيكُمْ آيَاتِهِ فَتَعْرِفُونَهَا)

(He will show you His Ayat (signs), and you shall recognize them.) This is like the Ayah,

(سَنُرِيهِمْ آيَاتِنَا فِي الْأَفَاقِ وَفِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ حَتَّى يَتَبَيَّنَ لَهُمْ أَنَّهُ الْحَقُّ)

(We will show them Our signs in the universe, and in themselves, until it becomes manifest to them that this is the truth) (41:53).

(وَمَا رَبُّكَ بِغَفْلٍ عَمَّا تَعْمَلُونَ)

(And your Lord is not unaware of what you do.) means, on the contrary, He witnesses and sees all things. It was recorded that Imam Ahmad, may Allah have mercy upon him, used to recite the following two lines of verse, whether they were written by him or someone else: "If you are alone one day, do not say, 'I am alone.' Rather say, 'Someone is watching me.' Do not think that Allah will let His attention wander for even an instant, or that anything is hidden from Him." This is the end of the Tafsir of Surat An-Naml. All praise and thanks be to Allah.

The Tafsir of Surat Al-Qasas

(Chapter - 28)

Which was revealed in Makkah

Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal, may Allah have mercy on him, recorded that Ma`diykarib said: "We came to `Abdullah and asked him to recite to us:

(طسم)

(Ta Sn Mim.) the two hundred. He said, 'I do not know it; you should go to someone who learned it from the Messenger of Allah Khabbab bin Al-Aratt.' So we went to Khabbab bin Al-Aratt and he recited it to us, may Allah be pleased with him."

(بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ)

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

(طسم - تِلْكَ ءَايَتُ الْكِتَابِ الْمُبِينِ - لَعَلَّكَ بَخِعٌ
نَفْسَكَ إِلَّا يَكُونُوا مُؤْمِنِينَ - إِنْ نَشَأْ نُنَزِّلْ عَلَيْهِمْ
مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ ءَايَةً فَظَلَّتْ أَعْنَاقُهُمْ لَهَا خَاضِعِينَ -
وَمَا يَأْتِيهِمْ مِّنْ ذِكْرٍ مِّنَ الرَّحْمَنِ مُحَدَّثٍ إِلَّا
كَانُوا عَنْهُ مُعْرِضِينَ - فَقَدْ كَذَّبُوا فَسَيَأْتِيهِمْ أَنْبَاءُ
مَا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِءُونَ)

(1. Ta Sn Mm) (2. These are the Ayat of the manifest Book.) (3. We recite to you some of the news of Musa and Fir`awn in truth, for a people who believe.) (4. Verily, Fir`awn exalted himself in the land and made its people Shiya`a, weakening a group among them: killing their sons, and letting their females live. Verily, he was of the mischief-makers.) (5. And We wished to do a favor to those who were weak in the land, and to make them rulers and to make them the inheritors,) (6. And to establish them in the land, and We let Fir`awn and Haman and their armies receive from them that which they feared.)

The Story of Musa and Fir`awn, and what Allah intended for Their Peoples

We have already discussed the significance of the separate letters.

(تِلْكَ ءَايَتُ الْكِتَابِ الْمُبِينِ)

(These are the Ayat of the manifest Book.) means the Book which is clear and makes plain the true reality of things, and tells us about what happened and what will happen.

(نَتْلُو عَلَيْكَ مِن نَّبَأِ مُوسَىٰ وَفِرْعَوْنَ بِالْحَقِّ)

(We recite to you some of the news of Musa and Fir`awn in truth,) This is like the Ayah,

(نَحْنُ نَقُصُّ عَلَيْكَ أَحْسَنَ الْقَصَصِ)

(We relate unto you the best of stories) (12:3). which means, 'We tell you about things as they really were, as if you are there and are seeing them yourself.' Then Allah says:

(إِنَّ فِرْعَوْنَ عَلَا فِي الْأَرْضِ)

(Verily, Fir`awn exalted himself in the land) means, he was an arrogant oppressor and tyrant.

(وَجَعَلَ أَهْلَهَا شِيَعًا)

(and made its people Shiya`) means, he made them into different classes, each of which he used to do whatever he wanted of the affairs of his state.

(يَسْتَزْعِفُ طَائِفَةً مِّنْهُمْ)

(weakening a group among them.) This refers to the Children of Israel, who at that time were the best of people, even though this tyrant king overpowered them, using them to do the most menial work and forcing them to hard labor night and day for him and his people. At the same time, he was killing their sons and letting their daughters live, to humiliate them and because he feared that there might appear among them the boy who would be the cause of his destruction and the downfall of his kingdom. So Fir`awn took precautions against that happening, by ordering that all boys born to the Children of Israel should be killed, but this precaution did not protect him against the divine decree, because when the term of Allah comes, it cannot be delayed, and for each and every matter there is a decree from Allah. 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 His saying;

(يَحْذَرُونَ)

(which they feared.) And Allah did indeed do this to them, as He says:

(وَأَوْرَثْنَا الْقَوْمَ الَّذِينَ كَانُوا يُسْتَضْعَفُونَ)

(And We made the people who were considered weak) until His saying;

(يَعْرِشُونَ)

(they erected) (7:137). And Allah said:

(كَذَلِكَ وَأَوْرَثْنَاهَا بَنِي إِسْرَءِيلَ)

(Thus and We caused the Children of Israel to inherit them) (26: 59). Fir`awn hoped that by his strength and power he would be saved from Musa, but that did not help him in the slightest. Despite his great power as a king he could not oppose the decree of Allah, which can never be overcome. On the contrary, Allah's ruling was carried out, for it had been written and decreed from past eternity that Fir`awn would meet his doom at the hands of Musa.

(وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ أُمِّ مُوسَىٰ أَنْ أَرْضِعِيهِ فَإِذَا خِفَتْ عَلَيْهِ فَإِلَيْهِ فِي الْيَمِّ وَلَا تَخَافِي وَلَا تَحْزَنِي إِنَّا رَادُّوهُ إِلَيْكَ وَجَعَلُوهُ مِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ - فَالتَقَطَهُ ءَالُ فِرْعَوْنَ لِيَكُونَ لَهُمْ عَدُوًّا وَحَزَنًا إِنَّ فِرْعَوْنَ وَهَمَانَ وَجُنُودَهُمَا كَانُوا خَاطِئِينَ - وَقَالَتِ امْرَأَتُ فِرْعَوْنَ قُرَّةَ عَيْنٍ لِّي وَلَكَ لَا تَقْتُلُوهُ عَسَىٰ أَنْ يَنْفَعَنَا أَوْ نَتَّخِذَهُ وَلَدًا وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ)

(7. And We inspired the mother of Musa: "Suckle him (Musa), but when you fear for him, then cast him into the river and fear not, nor grieve. Verily, We shall bring him back to you, and shall make him one of the Messengers.") (8. Then the household of Fir`awn picked him up, that he might become for them an enemy and a (cause of) grief. Verily, Fir`awn, Haman and their armies were sinners.) (9. And the wife of Fir`awn said: "A comfort of the eye for me and for you. Kill him not, perhaps he may be of benefit to us, or we may adopt him as a son." And they perceived not.)

How Musa's Mother was inspired and shown what to do

It was mentioned that when Fir`awn killed so many of the males of the Children of Israel, the Copts were scared that the Children of Israel would die out, and they themselves would have to do the heavy labor that the Children of Israel used to do. So they said to Fir`awn, "If this continues, and their old men die and the young men are killed, their women will not be able to do the work that the men are doing, and we will end up having to do it." So Fir`awn issued orders that the boys should be killed one year, and left alone the following year. Harun, peace be upon him, was born in a year when the boys were not killed, and Musa was born in a year when the boys were being killed. Fir`awn had people who were entrusted with this task. There were midwives who would go around and check on the women, and if they noticed that any woman was pregnant, they would write her name down. When the time came for her to give birth, no one was allowed to attend her except for Coptic women. If the woman gave birth to a girl, they would leave her alone and go away, but if she gave birth to a boy, the killers would come in with their sharp knives and kill the child, then they would go away; may Allah curse them. When the mother of Musa became pregnant with him, she did not show any signs of pregnancy as other women did, and none of the midwives noticed. But when she gave birth to a

boy, she became very distressed and did not know what to do with him. She was extremely scared for him, because she loved him very much. No one ever saw Musa, peace be upon him, but they loved him, and the blessed ones were those who loved him both as a natural feeling and because he was a Prophet. Allah says:

(وَأَلَقَيْتُ عَلَيْكَ مَحَبَّةً مِّنِّي)

(And I endued you with love from Me) (20:39).

Musa, peace be upon him, in the House of Fir`awn

When Musa's mother became so worried and confused, it was inspired into her heart and mind what she should do, as Allah says:

(وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ أُمِّ مُوسَىٰ أَنْ أَرْضِعِيهِ فَإِذَا خِفْتِ عَلَيْهِ فَأَلْقِيهِ فِي الْيَمِّ وَلَا تَخَافِي وَلَا تَحْزَنِي إِنَّا رَادُّوهُ إِلَيْكَ وَجَعَلُوهُ مِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ)

(And We inspired the mother of Musa (telling): "Suckle him, but when you fear for him, then cast him into the river and fear not, nor grieve. Verily, We shall bring him back to you, and shall make him one of (Our) Messengers.") Her house was on the banks of the Nile, so she took a box and made it into a cradle, and started to nurse her child. When someone came to her that she was afraid of, she would go and put him in that box and put it in the river, and she would tie it with a rope. One day someone that she was afraid of came to the house, so she went and put the child in that box and put it in the river, but she forgot to tie it. The water carried him away, past the house of Fir`awn, where some servant women picked the box up and took it to Fir`awn's wife. They did not know what was inside, and they were afraid that they would be in trouble if they opened it without her. When the box was opened, they saw it was a child with the most beautiful features. Allah filled her heart with love for him when she saw him; this was because she was blessed and because Allah wanted to honor her and cause her husband's doom. Allah says:

(فَالْتَقَطَهُ ءَالُ فِرْعَوْنَ لِيَكُونَ لَهُمْ عَدُوًّا وَحَزَنًا)

(Then the household of Fir`awn picked him up, that he might become for them an enemy and a (cause of) grief.) Allah says:

(إِنَّ فِرْعَوْنَ وَهَمَانَ وَجُنُودَهُمَا كَانُوا خَاطِئِينَ)

(Verily, Fir`awn, Haman and their armies were sinners.)

(وَقَالَتْ امْرَأَتُ فِرْعَوْنَ قُرَّةُ عَيْنٍ لِي وَلَكَ)

(And the wife of Fir`awn said: "A comfort of the eye for me and for you..." means, when Fir`awn saw him, he wanted to kill him, fearing that he was one of the Children of Israel. But his wife Asiyah bint Muzahim came to the child's defence and tried to endear him to Fir`awn, saying,

(قُرَّةُ عَيْنٍ لِي وَلَكَ)

(A comfort of the eye for me and for you.) Fir`awn said: "For you he may be, but not for me. And this was indeed the case: Allah guided her because of him, and destroyed him at his hands.

(عَسَى أَنْ يَنْفَعَنَا)

(perhaps he may be of benefit to us,) This is indeed what happened in her case, for Allah guided her through him and caused her to dwell in Paradise because of him.

(أَوْ نَتَّخِذْهُ وَلَدًا)

(or we may adopt him as a son.) She wanted to take him and adopt him as a son, because she had no children from Fir`awn.

(وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ)

(And they perceived not.) means, they did not know what Allah planned for them when they picked him up, by His great wisdom and definitive proof.

(وَأَصْبَحَ فُؤَادُ أُمِّ مُوسَىٰ فَارِغًا إِنْ كَادَتْ لَتُبْدِي
بِهِ لَوْلَا أَنْ رَبَّنَا عَلَىٰ قَلْبِهَا لِتَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ
- وَقَالَتْ لِأُخْتِهِ قُصِّيهِ فَبَصُرَتْ بِهِ عَنْ جُنُبٍ
وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ - وَحَرَّمْنَا عَلَيْهِ الْمَرَاضِعَ مِنْ
قَبْلُ فَقَالَتْ هَلْ أَدُلُّكُمْ عَلَىٰ أَهْلِ بَيْتٍ يَكْفُلُونَهُ لَكُمْ
وَهُمْ لَهُ نَاصِحُونَ - فَرَدَدْنَاهُ إِلَىٰ أُمِّهِ كَيْ تَقَرَّ

عَيْنُهَا وَلَا تَحْزَنَ وَلِتَعْلَمَ أَنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ)

(10. And the heart of the mother of Musa became empty. She was very near to disclose his (case), had We not strengthened her heart, so that she might remain as one of the believers.) (11. And she said to his sister: "Follow him." So she watched him from a far place (secretly) while they perceived not.) (12. And We had already forbidden foster suckling mothers for him, until she said: "Shall I direct you to a household who will rear him for you, and look after him in a good manner") (13. So We restored him to his mother, that her eye might be comforted, and that she might not grieve, and that she might know that the promise of Allah is true. But most of them know not.)

The intense Grief of Musa's Mother, and how He was returned to Her

Allah tells us how, when her child was lost in the river, the heart of Musa's mother became empty, i.e., she could not think of any matter in this world except Musa. This was the view of Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid, `Ikrimah, Sa`id bin Jubayr, Abu `Ubaydah, Ad-Dahhak, Al-Hasan Al-Basri, Qatadah and others.

(إِنْ كَادَتْ لَتُبْدِيَ بِهِ)

(She was very near to disclose his (case),) means, because of the intensity of her grief, she almost told people that she had lost a son. She would have disclosed her situation, if Allah had not given her strength and patience. Allah says:

(لَوْ لَا أَنْ رَّبَطْنَاهُ عَلَى قَلْبِهَا لِتَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَقَالَتْ لِأُخْتِهِ قُصِّيهِ)

(had We not strengthened her heart, so that she might remain as one of the believers. And she said to his sister: "Follow him.") means, she told her daughter, who was older and was of an age to understand things,

(قُصِّيهِ)

(Follow him.) means, follow his traces and look for information about him, try to find out about him around the city. So she went out to do that.

(فَبَصَّرَتْ بِهِ عَنْ جُنُبٍ)

(So she watched him from a far place (secretly),) Ibn `Abbas said, "Off to the side." Mujahid said, "It means she looked from afar. Qatadah said: "She started to look at him as if she was not

really interested." When Musa had settled into the house of Fir`awn, after the king's wife had begun to love him and asked Fir`awn not to kill him, they brought to him the wet nurses who were to be found in their household, and he did not accept any of them, refusing to take milk from them. So they took him out to the marketplace, hoping to find a woman who would be suitable to nurse him. When (his sister) saw him in their arms, she recognized him, but she did not give any indication nor did they suspect her. Allah says:

(وَحَرَّمْنَا عَلَيْهِ الْمَرَاضِعَ مِنْ قَبْلُ)

(And We had already forbidden foster suckling mothers for him,) Because of his honored status with Allah, it was forbidden by divine decree. It was decreed that no one should nurse him except his own mother, and Allah caused this to be the means reuniting him with his mother so that she could nurse him and feel safe after having felt such fear. When (his sister) saw that they were confused over who should nurse the child,

(فَقَالَتْ هَلْ أَدُلُّكُمْ عَلَىٰ أَهْلِ بَيْتٍ يَكْفُلُونَهُ لَكُمْ وَهُمْ لَهُ نَاصِحُونَ)

(she said: "Shall I direct you to a household who will rear him for you, and look after him in a good manner") Ibn `Abbas said: When she said that, they had some doubts about her, so they seized her and asked her, "How do you know these people will be sincere and will care for him?" She said to them, "They will be sincere and will care for him because they want the king to be happy and because they hope for some reward." So they let her go. After what she said, being safe from their harm, they took her to their house and brought the baby to his mother. She gave him her breast and he accepted it, so they rejoiced and sent the glad tidings to the wife of Fir`awn. She called for Musa's mother, treating her kindly and rewarding her generously. She did not realize that she was his real mother, but she saw that the baby accepted her breast. Then Asiyah asked her to stay with her and nurse the baby, but she refused, saying, "I have a husband and children, and I cannot stay with you, but if you would like me to nurse him in my own home, I will do that." The wife of Fir`awn agreed to that, and paid her a regular salary and gave her extra gifts and clothing and treated her kindly. The mother of Musa came back with her child, happy that after a time of fear Allah granted her security, prestige, and ongoing provision. There was only a short time between the distress and the way out, a day and night, or thereabouts -- and Allah knows best. Glory be to the One in Whose hands are all things; what He wills happens and what He does not will does not happen. He is the One Who grants those who fear Him, a way out from every worry and distress, Allah said:

(فَرَدَدْنَاهُ إِلَىٰ أُمِّهِ كَىٰ تَقَرَّ عَيْنُهَا)

(So We restored him to his mother, that her eye might be comforted,) means, by him,

(وَلَا تَحْزَنَ)

(and that she might not grieve,) means, for him.

(وَلِتَعْلَمَ أَنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ)

(and that she might know that the promise of Allah is true.) meaning, 'We had promised her to return him to her and to make him one of the Messengers.' When he was returned to her, she realized that he was one of the Messengers, so as she brought him up, she treated him both as a child (with kindness) and as a Messenger (with respect).

(وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ)

(But most of them know not.) means, they do not know the wisdom of Allah in His actions and their good consequences, for which He is to be praised in this world and the Hereafter. For a thing may happen that people do not like, but its consequences are good, as Allah says:

(وَعَسَى أَنْ تَكْرَهُوا شَيْئًا وَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ وَعَسَى أَنْ تُحِبُّوا شَيْئًا وَهُوَ شَرٌّ لَكُمْ)

(and it may be that you dislike a thing which is good for you and that you like a thing which is bad for you) (2:216).

(فَعَسَى أَنْ تَكْرَهُوا شَيْئًا وَيَجْعَلَ اللَّهُ فِيهِ خَيْرًا كَثِيرًا)

(it may be that you dislike a thing and Allah brings through it a great deal of good) (4:19).

(وَلَمَّا بَلَغَ أَشُدَّهُ وَاسْتَوَى ءَاتَيْنَاهُ حُكْمًا وَعِلْمًا وَكَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ - وَدَخَلَ الْمَدِينَةَ عَلَى حِينٍ غَفْلَةٍ مِّنْ أَهْلِهَا فَوَجَدَ فِيهَا رَجُلَيْنِ يَقْتَتِلَانِ هَٰذَا مِنْ شِيعَتِهِ وَهَٰذَا مِنْ عَدُوِّهِ فَاسْتَغَاثَهُ الَّذِي مِنْ شِيعَتِهِ عَلَى الَّذِي مِنْ عَدُوِّهِ فَوَكَزَهُ مُوسَى فَقَضَىٰ عَلَيْهِ قَالَ هَٰذَا مِنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ إِنَّهُ عَدُوٌّ مُّضِلٌّ مُّبِينٌ - قَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي ظَلَمْتُ نَفْسِي

فَاغْفِرْ لِي فُغْفِرَ لَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ - قَالَ
رَبِّ يَمَا أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيَّ فَلَنْ أَكُونَ ظَهِيراً
لِلْمُجْرِمِينَ)

(14. And when he reached maturity, and was complete, We bestowed on him Hukm and knowledge. And thus do We reward the doers of good.) k(15. And he entered the city when its people were unaware: and he found there two men fighting, -- one of his party, and the other of his foes. The man of his (own) party asked him for help against his foe, so Musa struck him with his fist and he died. He said: "This is of Shaytan's doing, verily, he is a plain misleading enemy.") (16. He said: "My Lord! Verily, I have wronged myself, so forgive me." Then He forgave him. Verily, He is the Oft-Forgiving, the Most Merciful.) (17. He said: "My Lord! For that with which You have favored me, I will nevermore be a helper of the criminals!")

How Musa killed a Coptic Man

Having described Musa's beginnings, Allah then tells us that when he reached maturity, and was complete in stature, Allah gave him Hukm and religious knowledge. Mujahid said that this means prophethood.

(وَكَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ)

(And thus do We reward the doers of good.) Then Allah describes how Musa reached the status that was decreed for him, that of Prophethood and speaking to Allah, as a direct consequence of killing the Coptic, which was the reason why he left Egypt and went to Madyan. Allah says:

(وَدَخَلَ الْمَدِينَةَ عَلَى حِينٍ غَفْلَةٍ مِّنْ أَهْلِهَا)

(And he entered the city when its people were unaware.) Ibn Jurayj narrated from `Ata' Al-Khurasani, from Ibn `Abbas, "That was between Maghrib and `Isha'." Ibn Al-Munkadir narrated from `Ata' bin Yasar from Ibn `Abbas, "That was in the middle of the day." This was also the view of Sa`id bin Jubayr, `Ikrimah, As-Suddi and Qatadah.

(فَوَجَدَ فِيهَا رَجُلَيْنِ يَقْتَتِلَانِ)

(and he found there two men fighting,) meaning, hitting one another and struggling with one another.

(هَذَا مِنْ شِيعَتِهِ)

(one of his party,) meaning, an Israelite,

(وَهَذَا مِنْ عَدُوِّهِ)

(and the other of his foes.) meaning, a Coptic. This was the view of Ibn `Abbas, Qatadah, As-Suddi and Muhammad bin Ishaq. The Israelite man asked Musa, peace be upon him, for help, and Musa took advantage of the fact that people were not paying attention, so he went to the Coptic man and

(فَوَكَزَهُ مُوسَى فَقَضَى عَلَيْهِ)

(so Musa struck him with his fist and he died.) Mujahid said, "This means he punched him with his fist." And then he died.

(قَالَ)

(He said) refers to Musa.

(وَدَخَلَ الْمَدِينَةَ عَلَى حِينٍ غَفْلَةٍ مِّنْ أَهْلِهَا فَوَجَدَ فِيهَا رَجُلَيْنِ يَقْتَتِلَانِ هَذَا مِنْ شِيعَتِهِ وَهَذَا مِنْ عَدُوِّهِ فَاسْتَنَغَتْهُ الَّتِي مِنْ شِيعَتِهِ عَلَى الَّتِي مِنْ عَدُوِّهِ فَوَكَزَهُ مُوسَى فَقَضَى عَلَيْهِ قَالَ هَذَا مِنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ إِنَّهُ عَدُوٌّ مُّضِلٌّ مُّبِينٌ - قَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي ظَلَمْتُ نَفْسِي فَاغْفِرْ لِي فَغَفَرَ لَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ قَالَ رَبِّ بِمَا أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيَّ)

("This is of Shaytan's doing, verily, he is a plain misleading enemy." He said: "My Lord! Verily, I have wronged myself, so forgive me." Then He forgave him. Verily, He is the Oft-Forgiving, the Most Merciful. He said: "My Lord! For that with which You have favored me,) meaning, `what You have given me of prestige, power and blessings -- '

(قُلْنَ أَكُونُ ظَهِيرًا)

(I will nevermore be a helper of the criminals!) `those who disbelieve in You and go against Your commands.'

(فَأَصْبَحَ فِي الْمَدِينَةِ خَائِفًا يَتَرَقَّبُ فَإِذَا الَّذِي
اسْتَنْصَرَهُ بِالْأَمْسِ يَسْتَصْرِخُهُ قَالَ لَهُ مُوسَى
إِنَّكَ لَغَوِيٌّ مُبِينٌ)

(فَلَمَّا أَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يَبْطِشَ بِالَّذِي هُوَ عَدُوٌّ لَّهُمَا قَالَ
يَمُوسَى أَتُرِيدُ أَنْ تَقْتُلَنِي كَمَا قَتَلْتَ نَفْسًا بِالْأَمْسِ
إِنْ تُرِيدُ إِلَّا أَنْ تَكُونَ جَبَّارًا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَا
تُرِيدُ أَنْ تَكُونَ مِنَ الْمَصْلِحِينَ)

(18. So he became afraid, looking about in the city, when behold, the man who had sought his help the day before, called for his help (again). Musa said to him: "Verily, you are a plain misleader!") (19. Then when he decided to seize the man who was an enemy to both of them, the man said: "O Musa! Is it your intention to kill me as you killed a man yesterday Your aim is nothing but to become a tyrant in the land, and not to be one of those who do right.")

How the Secret of this Killing became known

Allah tells us that when Musa killed that Coptic,

(فِي الْمَدِينَةِ خَائِفًا)

(he became afraid in the city) meaning, of the consequences of his action,

(يَتَرَقَّبُ)

(looking about) means, turning around and watching out, waiting for the consequences of his action to befall him. He went out and about, and saw the man who sought his help the day before, fighting with another Coptic. When Musa passed by him, he called for his help again, against this other Coptic. Musa said to him:

(إِنَّكَ لَغَوِيٌّ مُبِينٌ)

(Verily, you are a plain misleader!) meaning, `you obviously lead people astray and are very evil.' Then Musa intended to attack that Coptic, but the Israelite -- because of his own

cowardice and weakness -- thought that Musa had hit him because of what he had said, so he said, in self-defence --

(يَمُوسَى أَتُرِيدُ أَنْ تَقْتُلَنِي كَمَا قَتَلْتَ نَفْسًا
يَا لَأَمْسٍ)

(O Musa! Is it your intention to kill me as you killed a man yesterday) Nobody except him and Musa, peace be upon him, knew about it, but when the other Coptic heard this, he took the news to Fir`awn's gate and told him about it. So Fir`awn came to know of it, and he became very angry and resolved to kill Musa, so he sent people after him to bring him to him.

(وَجَاءَ رَجُلٌ مِّنْ أَقْصَى الْمَدِينَةِ يَسْعَى قَالَ
يَمُوسَى إِنَّ الْمَلَأَ يَأْتَمِرُونَ بِكَ لِيَقْتُلُوكَ فَاخْرُجْ
إِنِّي لَكَ مِنَ النَّاصِحِينَ)

(20. And there came a man running, from the farthest end of the city. He said: "O Musa! Verily, the chiefs are taking counsel together about you, to kill you, so escape. Truly, I am one of the good advisers to you.")

(وَجَاءَ رَجُلٌ)

(And there came a man) He is described as being a man because he had the courage to take a different route, a shorter route than those who were sent after Musa, so he reached Musa first and said to him: "O Musa,

(إِنَّ الْمَلَأَ يَأْتَمِرُونَ بِكَ)

(Verily, the chiefs are taking counsel together about you.)," meaning, `they are consulting with one another about you.'

(لِيَقْتُلُوكَ فَاخْرُجْ)

(to kill you, so escape.) means, from this land.

(إِنِّي لَكَ مِنَ النَّاصِحِينَ)

(Truly, I am one of the good advisers to you.)

(فَخَرَجَ مِنْهَا خَائِفًا يَتَرَقَّبُ قَالَ رَبِّ نَجِّنِي مِنَ
الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ - وَلَمَّا تَوَجَّهَ تِلْقَاءَ مَدْيَنَ قَالَ
عَسَى رَبِّي أَنْ يَهْدِيَنِي سَوَاءَ السَّبِيلِ - وَلَمَّا وَرَدَ
مَاءَ مَدْيَنَ وَجَدَ عَلَيْهِ أُمَّةٌ مِّنَ النَّاسِ يَسْقُونَ
وَوَجَدَ مِنْ دُونِهِمُ امْرَأَتَيْنِ تَذُودَانِ قَالَ مَا
خَطْبُكُمَا قَالَتَا لَا نَسْقِي حَتَّى يُصْدِرَ الرِّعَاءُ
وَأَبُونَا شَيْخٌ كَبِيرٌ - فَسَقَى لَهُمَا ثُمَّ تَوَلَّى إِلَى
الظِّلِّ فَقَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي لِمَا أَنزَلْتَ إِلَيَّ مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَقِيرٌ

(21. So he escaped from there, looking about in a state of fear. He said: "My Lord! Save me from the people who are wrongdoers!") (22. And when he went towards Madyan, he said: "It may be that my Lord guides me to the right way.") (23. And when he arrived at the water of Madyan, he found there a group of men watering, and besides them he found two women who were keeping back (their flocks). He said: "What is the matter with you" They said: "We cannot water (our flocks) until the shepherds take (their flocks). And our father is a very old man.") (24. So he watered (their flocks) for them, then he turned back to shade, and said: "My Lord! Truly, I am in need of whatever good that You bestow on me!")

Musa, peace be upon him, in Madyan, and how He watered the Flocks of the Two Women

When the man told Musa about how Fir`awn and his chiefs were conspiring against him, he left Egypt on his own. He was not used to being alone, because before that he had been living a life of luxury and ease, in a position of leadership.

(فَخَرَجَ مِنْهَا خَائِفًا يَتَرَقَّبُ)

(So he escaped from there, looking about in a state of fear.) meaning, turning around and watching.

(قَالَ رَبِّ نَجِّنِي مِنَ الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ)

(My Lord! Save me from the people who are wrongdoers!) means, from Fir'awn and his chiefs. It was mentioned that Allah sent to him an angel riding a horse, who showed him the way. And Allah knows best.

(وَلَمَّا تَوَجَّهَ تِلْقَاءَ مَدْيَنَ)

(And when he went towards (the land of) Madyan,) means, he took a smooth and easy route -- and he rejoiced because of that.

(قَالَ عَسَىٰ رَبِّي أَن يَهْدِيَنِي سَوَاءَ السَّبِيلِ)

(he said: "It may be that my Lord guides me to the right way.") meaning, the most straight route. And Allah did indeed do that, for He guided him to the straight path in this world and the Hereafter, and caused him to be guided and to guide others.

(وَلَمَّا وَرَدَ مَاءَ مَدْيَنَ)

(And when he arrived at the water (a well) of Madyan,) means, when he reached Madyan and went to drink from its water, for it had a well where shepherds used to water their flocks,

(وَجَدَ عَلَيْهِ أُمَّةٌ مِّنَ النَّاسِ يَسْقُونَ وَوَجَدَ مِنْ دُونِهِمُ امْرَأَتَيْنِ تَذُودَانِ)

(he found there a group of men watering, and besides them he found two women who were keeping back.) means, they were stopping their sheep from drinking with the sheep of those shepherds, lest some harm come to them. When Musa, peace be upon him, saw them, he felt sorry for them and took pity on them.

(قَالَ مَا خَطْبُكُمَا)

(He said: "What is the matter with you") meaning, `why do you not water your flocks with these people'

(قَالَتَا لَا نَسْقِي حَتَّىٰ يُصَدِرَ الرِّعَاءُ)

(They said: "We cannot water until the shepherds take...") meaning, `we cannot water our flocks until they finish.'

(وَأَبُونَا شَيْخٌ كَبِيرٌ)

(And our father is a very old man.) means, `this is what has driven us to what you see.'

(فَسَقَى لَهُمَا)

(So he watered (their flocks) for them,)

(ثُمَّ تَوَلَّى إِلَى الظِّلِّ فَقَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي لِمَا أَنْزَلْتَ إِلَيَّ مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَقِيرٌ)

(then he turned back to shade, and said: "My Lord! Truly, I am in need of whatever good that You bestow on me!")

(إِلَى الظِّلِّ)

(to shade,) Ibn `Abbas, Ibn Mas`ud and As-Suddi said: "He sat beneath a tree." `Ata' bin As-Sa'ib said: "When Musa said:

(رَبِّ إِنِّي لِمَا أَنْزَلْتَ إِلَيَّ مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَقِيرٌ)

("My Lord! Truly, I am in need of whatever good that You bestow on me!") the women heard him."

(فَجَاءَتْهُ إِحْدَاهُمَا تَمْشِي عَلَى اسْتِحْيَاءٍ قَالَتْ إِنَّ أَبِي يَدْعُوكَ لِيَجْزِيَكَ أَجْرَ مَا سَقَيْتَ لَنَا فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُ وَقَصَّ عَلَيْهِ الْقَصَصَ قَالَ لَا تَخَفْ نَجَوْتَ مِنْ الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ - قَالَتْ إِحْدَاهُمَا يَأَبْتَ اسْتَجِرْهُ إِنَّ خَيْرَ مَنْ اسْتَجَرْتَ الْقَوِيُّ الْأَمِينُ - قَالَ إِنِّي أُرِيدُ أَنْ أُنكِحَكَ إِحْدَى ابْنَتَيَّ هَاتَيْنِ عَلَى أَنْ تَأْجُرَنِي ثَمَانِيَ حِجَجٍ فَإِنْ أَتَمَمْتَ عَشْرًا فَمِنْ عِنْدِكَ وَمَا أُرِيدُ أَنْ أَشُقَّ عَلَيْكَ سَتَجِدُنِي إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ مِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ - قَالَ ذَلِكَ بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَكَ أَيَّمَا

الْأَجْلَيْنِ قَضَيْتُ فَلَا عُدْوَانَ عَلَيَّ وَاللَّهُ عَلَى مَا
نَقُولُ وَكِيلٌ)

(25. Then there came to him one of them, walking shyly. She said: "Verily, my father calls you that he may reward you for having watered (our flocks) for us." So when he came to him and narrated the story, he said: "Fear you not. You have escaped from the people who are wrongdoers.") (26. And said one of them (the two women): "O my father! Hire him! Verily, the best of men for you to hire is the strong, the trustworthy.") (27. He said: "I intend to wed one of these two daughters of mine to you, on condition that you serve me for eight years; but if you complete ten years, it will be (a favor) from you. But I intend not to place you under a difficulty. If Allah wills, you will find me one of the righteous.") (28. He (Musa) said: "That (is settled) between me and you: whichever of the two terms I fulfill, there will be no injustice to me, and Allah is Surety over what we say.")

Musa, the Father of the Two Women, and His Marriage to One of Them

When the two women came back quickly with the sheep, their father was surprised that they returned so soon. He asked them what had happened, and they told him what Musa, peace be upon him, had done. So he sent one of them to call him to meet her father. Allah says:

(فَجَاءَتْهُ إِحْدَاهُمَا تَمْشِي عَلَى اسْتِحْيَاءٍ)

(Then there came to him one of them, walking shyly.) meaning, she was walking like a free woman, as it was narrated from the Commander of the faithful, `Umar, may Allah be pleased with him: "She was covering herself from them with the folds of her garment." Ibn Abi Hatim recorded that `Amr bin Maymun said, `Umar, may Allah be pleased with him, said: "She came walking shyly, putting her garment over her face. She was not one of those audacious women who come and go as they please." This chain of narrators is Sahih.

(قَالَتْ إِنَّ أَبِي يَدْعُوكَ لِيَجْزِيَكَ أَجْرَ مَا سَقَيْتَ
لَنَا)

(She said: "Verily, my father calls you that he may reward you for having watered (our flocks) for us.") This is an example of good manners: she did not invite him directly lest he have some suspicious thoughts about her. Rather she said: "My father is inviting you so that he may reward you for watering our sheep," i.e., give you some payment for that.

(فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُ وَقَصَّ عَلَيْهِ الْقِصَصَ)

(So when he came to him and narrated the story,) means, he told him about his story and why he had to leave his country.

(قَالَ لَا تَخَفْ نَجَوْتَ مِنَ الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ)

(he said: "Fear you not. You have escaped from the people who are wrongdoers.") He was saying: 'calm down and relax, for you have left their kingdom and they have no authority in our land.' So he said:

(نَجَوْتَ مِنَ الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ)

(You have escaped from the people who are wrongdoers.)

(قَالَتْ إِحْدَاهُمَا يَأْبَتِ اسْتَجِرْهُ إِنَّ خَيْرَ مَنْ
اسْتَجَرْتَ الْقَوِيُّ الْأَمِينُ)

(And said one of them: "O my father! Hire him! Verily, the best of men for you to hire is the strong, the trustworthy.") One of the two daughters of the man said this, and it was said that she was the one who had walked behind Musa, peace be upon him. She said to her father:

(يَأْبَتِ اسْتَجِرْهُ)

(O my father! Hire him!) as a shepherd to look after the sheep. `Umar, Ibn `Abbas, Shurayh Al-Qadi, Abu Malik, Qatadah, Muhammad bin Ishaq and others said: "When she said:

(إِنَّ خَيْرَ مَنْ اسْتَجَرْتَ الْقَوِيُّ الْأَمِينُ)

(Verily, the best of men for you to hire is the strong, the trustworthy.) her father said to her, 'What do you know about that' She said to him, 'He lifted a rock which could only be lifted by ten men, and when I came back with him, I walked ahead of him, but he said to me, walk behind me, and if I get confused about the route, throw a pebble so that I will know which way to go.'" `Abdullah (Ibn Mas`ud) said, "The people who had the most discernment were three: Abu Bakr's intuition about `Umar; the companion of Yusuf when he said, 'Make his stay comfortable'; and the companion of Musa, when she said:

(يَأْبَتِ اسْتَجِرْهُ إِنَّ خَيْرَ مَنْ اسْتَجَرْتَ الْقَوِيُّ
الْأَمِينُ)

(O my father! Hire him! Verily, the best of men for you to hire is the strong, the trustworthy.)."

(إِنِّي أُرِيدُ أَنْ أُنكِحَكَ إِحْدَى ابْنَتَيَّ هَاتَيْنِ)

(I intend to wed one of these two daughters of mine to you,) means, this old man asked him to take care of his flocks, then he would marry one of his two daughters to him.

(عَلَى أَنْ تَأْجُرَنِي ثَمَانِيَ حِجَجٍ فَإِنْ أَتَمَمْتَ
عَشْرًا فَمِنْ عِنْدِكَ)

(on condition that you serve me for eight years; but if you complete ten years, it will be (a favor) from you.) meaning, 'on the condition that you tend my flocks for eight years, and if you want to give me two extra years, that is up to you, but if you do not want to, then eight years is enough.'

(وَمَا أُرِيدُ أَنْ أَشُقَّ عَلَيْكَ سَتَجِدُنِي إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ
مِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ)

(But I intend not to place you under a difficulty. If Allah wills, you will find me one of the righteous.) means, 'I do not want to put pressure on you or cause you any inconvenience or argue with you.' Ibn Abi Hatim recorded that `Ali bin Rabah Al-Lakhmi said, "I heard `Utbah bin An-Nadar As-Sulami, the Companion of the Messenger of Allah narrating that the Messenger of Allah said:

«إِنَّ مُوسَى عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ آجَرَ نَفْسَهُ بِعَقَّةٍ فَرَجِهِ
وَطَعْمَةٍ بَطْنِهِ»

(Musa, peace be upon him, hired himself out for the purpose of keeping chaste and to feed himself.) And Allah tells us about Musa, peace be upon him:

(قَالَ ذَلِكَ بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَكَ أَيَّمَا الْأَجَلَيْنِ قَضَيْتُ فَلَا
عُدْوَانَ عَلَيَّ وَاللَّهُ عَلَى مَا نَقُولُ وَكِيلٌ)

(He said: "That (is settled) between me and you: whichever of the two terms I fulfill, there will be no injustice to me, and Allah is Surety over what we say.") Musa said to his father-in-law, "The matter is as you say. You have hired me for eight years, and if I complete ten years, that is my choice, but if I do the lesser amount, I will still have fulfilled the covenant and met the conditions." So he said:

(أَيَّمَا الْأَجَلَيْنِ قَضَيْتُ فَلَا عُدْوَانَ عَلَيَّ)

(whichever of the two terms I fulfill, there will be no injustice to me,) meaning, 'there will be no blame on me. The complete term is permissible but it is still regarded as something extra.' This is like the Ayah,

(فَمَنْ تَعَجَّلَ فِي يَوْمَيْنِ فَلَا إِثْمَ عَلَيْهِ وَمَنْ تَأَخَّرَ
فَلَا إِثْمَ عَلَيْهِ)

(But whosoever hastens to leave in two days, there is no sin on him and whosoever stays on, there is no sin on him) (2:203). And the Messenger of Allah said to Hamzah bin `Amr Al-Aslami, may Allah be pleased with him, who used to fast a great deal and who asked him about fasting while traveling:

«إِنْ شِئْتَ فَصُمْ، وَإِنْ شِئْتَ فَأُفْطِرْ»

(If you wish, then fast, and if you wish, do not fast.) even though it is better to fast, according to the evidence of other reports. And there is evidence which indicates that Musa, peace be upon him, fulfilled the longer of the two terms. Al-Bukhari recorded that Sa`id bin Jubayr said: "A Jew from the people of Hirah asked me; 'Which of the two terms did Musa fulfill?' I said, 'I do not know until I go to the scholar of the Arabs and ask him.' So I went to Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, and asked him. He said: 'He fulfilled the longer and better of them, for when a Messenger of Allah said he would do a thing, he did it.'" This is how it was recorded by Al-Bukhari.

(فَلَمَّا قَضَىٰ مُوسَى الْأَجَلَ وَسَارَ بِأَهْلِهِ آنَسَ مِنْ
جَانِبِ الطُّورِ نَارًا قَالَ لِأَهْلِهِ امْكُثُوا إِنِّي آنَسْتُ
نَارًا لَّعَلِّي آتِيكُم مِّنْهَا بِخَبَرٍ أَوْ جَذْوَةٍ مِّنَ النَّارِ
لَعَلَّكُمْ تَصْطَلُونَ - فَلَمَّا أَتَاهَا نُودِيَ مِنْ شَاطِئِ
الْوَادِي الْأَيْمَنِ فِي الْبُقْعَةِ الْمُبَارَكَةِ مِنَ الشَّجَرَةِ
أَنْ يَّمُوسَى إِنِّي أَنَا اللَّهُ رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ - وَأَنْ أَلْقِ
عَصَاكَ فَلَمَّا رَءَاهَا تَهْتَزُّ كَأَنَّهَا جَانٌّ وَلَّى مُدْبِرًا
وَلَمْ يُعَقِّبْ يَمُوسَى أَقْبَلُ وَلَا تَخَفْ إِنَّا كُنَّا
الْأَمِينِينَ - اسْأَلْكَ يَدَاكَ فِي جَيْبِكَ تَخْرُجُ بَيْضَاءَ

مِنْ غَيْرِ سُوءٍ وَاضْمُمْ إِلَيْكَ جَنَاحَكَ مِنَ الرَّهْبِ
فَذَانِكَ بُرْهَانِنَ مِنْ رَبِّكَ إِلَى فِرْعَوْنَ وَمَلَئِهِ إِنَّهُمْ
كَانُوا قَوْمًا فَاسِقِينَ)

(29. Then, when Musa had fulfilled the term, and was traveling with his family, he saw a fire in the direction of At-Tur. He said to his family: "Wait, I have seen a fire; perhaps I may bring to you from there some information, or a burning firebrand that you may warm yourselves.") (30. So when he reached it, he was called from the right side of the valley, in the blessed place, from the tree: "O Musa! Verily, I am Allah, the Lord of all that exists!") (31. "And throw your stick!") But when he saw it moving as if it were a snake, he turned in flight, and looked not back. (It was said:) "O Musa! Draw near, and fear not. Verily, you are of those who are secure.") (32. "Put your hand into the opening of your garment, it will come forth white without a disease; and draw your hand close to your side to be free from the fear. These are two proofs from your Lord to Fir`awn and his chiefs. Verily, they are the people who are rebellious.")

Musa's Return to Egypt and how he was honored with the Mission and Miracles on the Way

In the explanation of the previous Ayah, we have already seen that Musa completed the longer and better of the two terms, which may also be understood from the Ayah where Allah says:

(فَلَمَّا قَضَىٰ مُوسَى الْأَجَلَ)

(Then, when Musa had fulfilled the term,) meaning, the longer of the two; and Allah knows best.

(وَسَارَ بِأَهْلِهِ)

(and was traveling with his family,) They said: "Musa missed his country and his relatives, so he resolved to visit them in secret, without Fir`awn and his people knowing. So he gathered up his family and the flocks which his father-in-law had given to him, and set out on a cold, dark, rainy night. They stopped to camp, and whenever he tried to start a fire, he did not succeed. He was surprised by this, and while he was in this state,

(ءَانَسَ مِنْ جَانِبِ الطُّورِ نَارًا)

(he saw a fire in the direction of At-Tur) he saw a fire burning from a far.

(فَقَالَ لِأَهْلِهِ امْكُثُوا إِنِّي ءَانَسْتُ نَارًا)

(He said to his family: "Wait, I have seen a fire...") meaning, ` wait while I go there, '

(أَلْعَلَىٰ ءَاتِيكُمْ مِنْهَا بِخَبَرٍ)

(perhaps I may bring to you from there some information,) This was because they lost their way.

(أَوْ جَذْوَةٍ مِّنَ النَّارِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَصْطَلُونَ)

(or a burning firebrand that you may warm yourselves.) so that they could get warm and find relief from the cold.

(فَلَمَّا أَتَاهَا نُودِيَ مِن شَاطِئِئِ الْوَادِي الْأَيْمَنِ)

(So when he reached it (the fire), he was called from the right side of the valley,) From the side of the valley that adjoined the mountain on his right, to the west. This is like the Ayah,

(وَمَا كُنْتَ بِجَانِبِ الْغَرِيِّ إِذْ قَضَيْنَا إِلَىٰ مُوسَى الْأَمْرَ)

(And you were not on the western side, when We made clear to Musa the commandment) (20:44). This indicates that when Musa headed for the fire, he headed in the direction of the Qiblah with the western mountain on his right. He found the fire burning in a green bush on the side of the mountain adjoining the valley, and he stood there amazed at what he was seeing. Then his Lord called him:

(مِن شَاطِئِئِ الْوَادِي الْأَيْمَنِ فِي الْبُقْعَةِ الْمُبَارَكَةِ مِنَ الشَّجَرَةِ)

(from the right side of the valley, in the blessed place, from the tree.)

(أَن يَمُوسَىٰ إِنَّي أَنَا اللَّهُ رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ)

(O Musa! Verily, I am Allah, the Lord of all that exists!) meaning, `the One Who is addressing you and speaking to you is the Lord of all that exists, the One Who does what He wills, the One apart from Whom there is no other god or lord, may He be exalted and sanctified, the One Who by His very nature, attributes, words and deeds is far above any resemblance to His creation, may He be glorified.

(وَأَن أَلْقَ عَصَاكَ)

(And throw your stick!) the stick that is in your hand' -- as was stated in the Ayah,

(وَمَا تِلْكَ يَمِينُكَ يَمُوسَى - قَالَ هِيَ عَصَايَ
أَتَوَكَّؤُا عَلَيْهَا وَأُشْشُ بِهَا عَلَى غَنَمِي وَلِيَ فِيهَا
مَآرِبٌ أُخْرَى)

("And what is that in your right hand, O Musa" He said: "This is my stick, whereon I lean, and wherewith I beat down branches for my sheep, and wherein I find other uses.") (20:17-18). The meaning is: 'this stick, which you know so well;'

(قَالَ أَلْقِهَا يَمُوسَى - فَأَلْقَاهَا فَإِذَا هِيَ حَيَّةٌ تَسْعَى
(

("Cast it down, O Musa!" He cast it down, and behold! It was a snake, moving quickly.) (20:19-20). Musa knew that the One Who was speaking to him was the One Who merely says to a thing, "Be!" and it is, as we have already stated in (the explanation of) Surah Ta Ha. And here Allah says:

(فَلَمَّا رَءَاهَا تَهْتَزُّ كَأَنَّهَا جَانٌّ وَلَّى مُدْبِرًا)

(But when he saw it moving as if it were a snake, he turned in flight.) It moved so quickly, even though it was so big, and its mouth was so huge, with its jaws snapping. It swallowed every rock it passed, and every rock that fell into its mouth fell with a sound like a rock falling into a valley. When he saw that:

(وَلَّى مُدْبِرًا وَلَمْ يُعَقِّبْ)

(he turned in flight, and looked not back.) he did not turn around, because it is human nature to flee from such a thing. But when Allah said to him:

(يَمُوسَى أَقْبِلْ وَلَا تَخَفْ إِنَّكَ مِنَ الْآمِنِينَ)

(O Musa! Draw near, and fear not. Verily, you are of those who are secure.) he came back to his original position. Then Allah said:

(اسْأَلْكَ يَدَاكَ فِي جَيْبِكَ تَخْرُجُ بَيْضَاءَ مِنْ غَيْرِ
سُوءٍ)

(Put your hand into the opening of your garment, it will come forth white without a disease;) meaning, `when you put your hand in your garment and then draw it out, it will be shining white as if it were a piece of the moon or a flash of lightning.' Allah said:

(مِنْ غَيْرِ سُوءٍ)

(without a disease) i.e., with no trace of leukoderma.

(وَاضْمُمْ إِلَيْكَ جَنَاحَكَ مِنَ الرَّهْبِ)

(and draw your hand close to your side to be free from the fear.) Mujahid said, "To be free from terror." Qatadah said, "To be free from fear." Musa was commanded, when he felt afraid of anything, to draw his hand close to his side to be free from the fear. If he did that, whatever fear he felt would be gone. Perhaps if a person does this, following the example of Musa, and puts his hand over his heart, his fear will disappear or be lessened, if Allah wills; in Allah we place our trust.

(فَذَانِكَ بُرْهَانِنِ مِنْ رَبِّكَ)

(These are two proofs from your Lord) This refers to the throwing down of his stick, whereupon it turned into a moving snake, and his putting his hand into his garment and bringing it forth white without a disease. These were two clear and definitive proofs of the power of the One Who does as He chooses, and of the truth of the prophethood of the one at whose hands these miracles occurred. Allah said:

(إِلَى فِرْعَوْنَ وَمَلَئِهِ)

(to Fir`awn and his chiefs.) meaning his leaders and prominent followers.

(إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا قَوْمًا فَسِقِينَ)

(Verily, they are the people who are rebellious.) means, who are disobedient towards Allah and who go against His commands and His religion.

(قَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي قَتَلْتُ مِنْهُمْ نَفْسًا فَأَخَافُ أَنْ يَقْتُلُونِ)
- وَأَخِي هَارُونُ هُوَ أَفْصَحُ مِنِّي لِسَانًا فَأَرْسَلْهُ
مَعِيَ رَدْءًا يُصَدِّقُنِي إِنِّي أَخَافُ أَنْ يُكَذِّبُونِ - قَالَ
سَنَشُدُّ عَضُدَكَ بِأَخِيكَ وَنَجْعَلُ لَكُمَا سُلْطٰنًا فَلَا

يَصْلُونَ إِلَيْكُمَا بِآيَتِنَا أَنْتُمَا وَمَنْ اتَّبَعَكُمَا
الْغَالِبُونَ)

(33. He said: "My Lord! I have killed a man among them, and I fear that they will kill me.") (34. "And my brother Harun -- he is more eloquent in speech than me, so send him with me as a helper to confirm me. Verily, I fear that they will deny me.") (35. Allah said: "We will strengthen your arm through your brother, and give you both power, so they shall not be able to harm you, with Our Ayat; you two as well as those who follow you, will be the victors.")

How Musa asked for the Support of His Brother and was granted that by Allah

When Allah commanded him to go to Fir`awn, the one who he had run away from and whose vengeance he feared,

(قَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي قَتَلْتُ مِنْهُمْ نَفْسًا)

(Musa said: My Lord! I have killed a man among them,) meaning, that Coptic,

(فَأَخَافُ أَنْ يَقْتُلُونِ)

(and I fear that they will kill me.) i.e., `when they see me.'

(وَأَخِي هَارُونُ هُوَ أَفْصَحُ مِنِّي لِسَانًا)

(And my brother Harun -- he is more eloquent in speech than me,) Musa, peace be upon him, had a speech defect, because when he had been given the choice between a date and a pearl, he mistakenly picked up a coal and placed it on his tongue, so he found it difficult to speak clearly. Musa said:

(وَاحْلُلْ عُقْدَةً مِّنْ لِّسَانِي - يَفْقَهُوا قَوْلِي - وَاجْعَلْ لِّيَ وَزِيرًا مِّنْ أَهْلِي - هَارُونُ أَخِي - اشْدُدْ بِهِ أَزْرِي - وَأَشْرِكْهُ فِي أَمْرِي)

("And loose the knot (the defect) from my tongue. That they understand my speech. And appoint for me a helper from my family, Harun, my brother. Increase my strength with him, And let him share my task.") (20:27-32) meaning, `give me someone to keep me company in this immense task of prophethood and conveying the Message to this arrogant, tyrannical and stubborn king. ' Hence Musa said:

(وَأَخِي هَارُونُ هُوَ أَفْصَحُ مِنِّي لِسَانًا فَأَرْسَلْهُ
مَعِيَ رِدْءًا)

(And my brother Harun -- he is more eloquent in speech than me: so send him with me as a helper) meaning, as a support to give strength to my cause and confirm what I say and convey from Allah, because the word of two carries more weight in people's minds than the word of one. So he said:

(إِنِّي أَخَافُ أَنْ يُكَذِّبُون)

(Verily, I fear that they will deny me.) Muhammad bin Ishaq said: c

(رِدْءًا يُصَدِّقُنِي)

(as a helper to confirm me.) means, `to explain to them what I say, for he can understand me where they may not.' When Musa asked for this, Allah said to him:

(سَنَشُدُّ عَضُدَكَ بِأَخِيكَ)

(We will strengthen your arm through your brother,) meaning, `We will add strength to your cause and give you help through your brother, who you have asked to be made a Prophet alongside you.' This is like the Ayat;

(قَدْ أُوتِيتَ سُؤْلَكَ يَا مُوسَى)

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

(وَوَهَبْنَا لَهُ مِنْ رَحْمَتِنَا أَخَاهُ هَارُونَ نَبِيًّا)

(And We granted him his brother Harun, (also) a Prophet, out of Our mercy) (19:53). One of the Salaf said, "There is no one who has ever done a greater favor to his brother than Musa did for Harun, may peace be upon them both, for he interceded for him until Allah made him a Prophet and Messenger with him to Fir`awn and his chiefs. Allah said concerning Musa:

(وَكَانَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ وَجِيهًا)

(he was honorable before Allah) (33:69).

(وَنَجْعَلُ لَكَمَا سُلْطٰنًا)

(and (We will) give you both power) means, overwhelming evidence.

(فَلَا يَصِلُونَ إِلَيْكُمَا بِآيَاتِنَا)

(so they shall not be able to harm you, with Our Ayat;) means, 'they will have no way or means of harming you because you are conveying the signs of Allah.' This is like the Ayat:

(يَا أَيُّهَا الرَّسُولُ بَلِّغْ مَا أُنْزِلَ إِلَيْكَ مِنْ رَبِّكَ)

(O Messenger! Proclaim (the Message) which has been sent down to you from your Lord.) until His saying:

(وَاللَّهُ يَعْصِمُكَ مِنَ النَّاسِ)

(Allah will protect you from mankind) (5:67).

(الَّذِينَ يُبَلِّغُونَ رِسَالَاتِ اللَّهِ)

(Those who convey the Message of Allah) until His saying:

(وَكَفَى بِاللَّهِ حَسِيبًا)

(And sufficient is Allah as a Reckoner) (33:39). And sufficient is Allah as a Helper and Supporter. And Allah told them the consequences in this world and the next, for them and for those who followed them,

(أَنْتُمْ وَمَنْ أَتْبَعَكُمْ الْغَالِبُونَ)

(you two as well as those who follow you will be the victors.) This is like the Ayat:

(كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَا غَلِبَنَّ أَنَا وَرُسُلِي إِنَّ اللَّهَ قَوِيٌّ عَزِيزٌ)

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

(إِنَّا لَنَنْصُرُ رُسُلَنَا وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا)

(Verily, We will indeed make victorious Our Messengers and those who believe in the world's life) (40:51) to the end of the Ayah.

(قَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ مُوسَى بِآيَاتِنَا بَيِّنَاتٍ قَالُوا مَا هَذَا
إِلَّا سِحْرٌ مُّقْتَرَى وَمَا سَمِعْنَا بِهَذَا فِي آبَائِنَا
الْأَوَّلِينَ - وَقَالَ مُوسَى رَبِّي أَعْلَمُ بِمَن جَاءَ
بِالْهُدَى مِنْ عِنْدِهِ وَمَن تَكُونُ لَهُ عَقِبَةُ الدَّارِ إِنَّهُ
لَا يُفْلِحُ الظَّالِمُونَ)

(36. Then when Musa came to them with Our Clear Ayat, they said: "This is nothing but invented magic. Never did we hear of this among our fathers of old.") (37. Musa said: "My Lord knows best him who came with guidance from Him, and whose will be the happy end in the Hereafter. Verily, the wrongdoers will not be successful.")

Musa before Fir`awn and His People

Allah tells us how Musa and his brother Harun came before Fir`awn and his chiefs, and showed them the clear miracles and overwhelming proof that Allah had given them to confirm the truth of what they were saying about Allah being One and that His commandments were to be followed. Fir`awn and his chiefs saw that with their own eyes and realized that it was certainly from Allah, but because of their disbelief and sin they resorted to stubbornness and false arguments. This was because they were too evil and arrogant to follow the truth. They said:

(مَا هَذَا إِلَّا سِحْرٌ مُّقْتَرَى)

(This is nothing but invented magic.) meaning, fabricated and made up. They wanted to oppose him by means of their own tricks and their position and power, but this did not work.

(وَمَا سَمِعْنَا بِهَذَا فِي آبَائِنَا الْأَوَّلِينَ)

(Never did we hear of this among our fathers of old.) They were referring worshipping Allah Alone, with no partner or associate. They said: "We have never seen anyone among our forefathers following this religion; we have only ever seen people associating other gods in worship with Allah. Musa said in response to them:

(رَبِّي أَعْلَمُ بِمَن جَاءَ بِالْهُدَى مِنْ عِنْدِهِ)

(My Lord knows best him who came with guidance from Him,) meaning, 'of me and you, and He will decide between me and you.' So he said:

(وَمَنْ تَكُونُ لَهُ عَقِبَةُ الدَّارِ)

(and whose will be the happy end in the Hereafter.) meaning, who will be supported and will prevail.

(إِنَّهُ لَا يُفْلِحُ الظَّالِمُونَ)

(Verily, the wrongdoers will not be successful.) refers to the idolators who associate others in worship with Allah.

(وَقَالَ فِرْعَوْنُ يَا أَيُّهَا الْمَلَأُ مَا عَلِمْتُ لَكُمْ مِنْ إِلَهٍ غَيْرِي فَأَوْقِدْ لِي يَهْمَنْ عَلَى الطِّينِ فَاجْعَلْ لِي صَرْحًا لَعَلِّي أَطَّلِعُ إِلَى إِلَهِ مُوسَى وَإِنِّي لأظنُّهُ مِنَ الْكَذِبِينَ - وَاسْتَكْبَرَ هُوَ وَجُنُودُهُ فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ وَظَنُّوا أَنَّهُمْ إِلَيْنَا لَا يُرْجَعُونَ - فَأَخَذْنَاهُ وَجُنُودَهُ فَنَبَذْنَاهُمْ فِي الْيَمِّ فَاُنظُرْ كَيْفَ كَانَ عَقِبَةُ الظَّالِمِينَ - وَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ أَيْمَةً يَدْعُونَ إِلَى النَّارِ وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ لَا يُنصَرُونَ - وَأَتْبَعْنَاهُمْ فِي هَذِهِ الدُّنْيَا لَعْنَةً وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ هُمْ مِنَ الْمَقْبُوحِينَ)

(38. Fir`awn said: "O chiefs! I know not that you have a god other than me. So kindle for me (a fire), O Haman, to bake clay, and set up for me a Sarh in order that I may look at the God of Musa; and verily, I think that he (Musa) is one of the liars.") (39. And he and his armies were arrogant in the land, without right, and they thought that they would never return to Us.) (40. So, We seized him and his armies, and We threw them all into the sea. So, behold what was the end of the wrongdoers.) (41. And We made them leaders inviting to the Fire: and on the Day of Resurrection, they will not be helped.) (42. And We made a curse to follow them in this world, and on the Day of Resurrection, they will be among disgraced.)

The Arrogance of Fir`awn and His ultimate Destiny

Allah tells us of Fir`awn's disbelief and wrongdoing, and how he falsely claimed divinity for his evil self, may Allah curse him.

(فَاسْتَخَفَّ قَوْمَهُ فَاَطَاعُوهُ)

(Thus he fooled his people, and they obeyed him.) 43:54(He called on his people to recognize his divinity, and they responded, because of their weak and foolish minds. So, he said:

(يَا أَيُّهَا الْمَلَأَ مَا عَلِمْتُ لَكُمْ مِّنْ إِلَهِ غَيْرِي)

(O chiefs! I know not that you have a god other than me.) Allah tells us about Fir`awn:

(فَحَشَرَ فَنَادَى - فَقَالَ أَنَا رَبُّكُمُ الْأَعْلَى - فَأَخَذَهُ
اللَّهُ نَكَالَ الْآخِرَةِ وَالْأُولَى - إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَعِبْرَةً
لِّمَن يَخْشَى)

(Then he gathered (his people) and cried aloud, saying: "I am your lord, most high." So Allah, seized him with punishment for his last and first transgression. Verily, in this is an instructive admonition for whosoever fears Allah.) (79:23-26) meaning: he brought his people together and called to them in a loud voice, shouting that, and they responded to him obediently. So Allah took revenge on him, and made him a lesson to others in this world and the Hereafter. He even confronted Musa with that, and said:

(لِّئِنِ اتَّخَذْتَ إِلَهًا غَيْرِي لِأَجْعَلَكَ مِنَ
الْمَسْجُونِينَ)

(If you choose a god other than me, I will certainly put you among the prisoners) (26:29).

(فَأَوْقِدْ لِي يَهْمَنُ عَلَى الطِّينِ فَاجْعَلْ لِّي صَرْحًا
لَّعَلِّي أَطَّلِعُ إِلَى إِلَهِ مُوسَى)

(So kindle for me (a fire), O Haman, to bake (bricks out of) clay, and set up for me a Sarh in order that I may look at the God of Musa;) He commanded his minister and adviser Haman to bake bricks for him, i.e., to make bricks in order to build a Sarh, a exalted towering palace. This is like the Ayah,

(وَقَالَ فِرْعَوْنُ يَهْمَنُ ابْنُ لِي صَرْحًا لَّعَلِّي أَبْلُغُ
الْأَسْبَابَ - أَتُحِبُّ السَّمَوَاتِ فَأَطَّلِعَ إِلَى إِلَهِ
مُوسَى وَإِنِّي لأظنُّهُ كَذِبًا وَكَذَلِكَ زُيِّنَ لِفِرْعَوْنَ
سُوءُ عَمَلِهِ وَصُدَّ عَنِ السَّبِيلِ وَمَا كَيْدُ فِرْعَوْنَ
إِلَّا فِي تَبَابٍ)

(And Fir`awn said: "O Haman! Build me a Sarh that I may arrive at the ways -- the ways of the heavens, and I may look upon the God of Musa, but verily, I think him to be a liar." Thus it was made fair seeming, in Fir`awn's eyes, the evil of his deeds, and he was hindered from the path; and the plot of Fir`awn led to nothing but loss and destruction) (40:36-37). Fir`awn built this tower, which was the highest structure ever seen on earth, because he wanted to show his people that Musa was lying when he claimed that there was a God other than Fir`awn. Fir`awn said:

(وَإِنِّي لأظنُّهُ مِنَ الْكَذِبِينَ)

(and verily, I think that he (Musa) is one of the liars.) meaning, `when he says that there is a lord other than me.' The issue was not whether Allah had sent Musa, because he did not acknowledge the existence of the Creator in the first place. On the contrary, he said:

(وَمَا رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ)

(And what is the Lord of Al-`Alamin) (26:23) and:

(لَئِنْ اتَّخَذْتَ إِلَهًا غَيْرِي لأَجْعَلَنَّكَ مِنَ
الْمَسْجُونِينَ)

(If you choose a god other than me, I will certainly put you among the prisoners.) (26:29) and he said:

(يَا أَيُّهَا الْمَلَأَ مَا عَلِمْتُ لَكُمْ مِّنْ إِلَهِ غَيْرِي)

(O chiefs! I know not that you have a god other than me.) This was the view of Ibn Jarir.

(وَأَسْتَكْبَرُوا هُوَ وَجُنُودُهُ فِي الْأَرْضِ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ
وَوَظَنُوا أَنَّهُم إِلَيْنَا لَا يُرْجَعُونَ)

(And he and his armies were arrogant in the land, without right, and they thought that they would never return to Us.) means, they were arrogant oppressors who spread much mischief in the land, and they believed that there would be no Resurrection.

(فَصَبَّ عَلَيْهِمُ رَبُّكَ سَوْطَ عَذَابٍ - إِنَّ رَبَّكَ
لَبِالْمِرْصَادِ)

(So, your Lord poured on them different kinds of severe torment. Verily, your Lord is Ever Watchful (over them).) (89:13-14). Allah says here:

(فَأَخَذْنَاهُ وَجُنُودَهُ فَنَبَذْنَاهُمْ فِي الْيَمِّ)

(So, We seized him and his armies, and We threw them all into the sea.) meaning, 'We drowned them in the sea in a single morning, and not one of them was left.'

(فَانْظُرْ كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الظَّالِمِينَ وَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ أَئِمَّةً
يَدْعُونَ إِلَى النَّارِ)

(So, behold what was the end of the wrongdoers. And We made them leaders inviting to the Fire) for those who followed them and took the same path as they did, rejecting the Messengers and denying the Creator.

(وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ لَا يُنْصَرُونَ)

(and on the Day of Resurrection, they will not be helped.) their humiliation in this world is combined with and connected to their humiliation in the Hereafter, as Allah says:

(أَهْلَكْنَاهُمْ فَلَا نَصِيرَ لَهُمْ)

(We have destroyed them. And there was none to help them) (47:13).

(وَأَتَّبَعْنَاهُمْ فِي هَذِهِ الدُّنْيَا لَعْنَةً)

(And We made a curse to follow them in this world,) Allah decreed that they and their king Fir`awn should be cursed by the believers among His servants who follow His Messengers, just as in this world they were cursed by the Prophets and their followers.

(وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ هُمْ مِنَ الْمَقْبُوحِينَ)

(and on the Day of Resurrection, they will be among disgraced.) Qatadah said, "This Ayah is like the Ayah,

(وَأُتْبِعُوا فِي هَذِهِ لَعْنَةً وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ يُسَ الرِّفْدُ
الْمَرْفُودُ)

(They were pursued by a curse in this (life) and on the Day of Resurrection. Evil indeed is the gift given.) (11:99)."

(وَلَقَدْ ءَاتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا أَهْلَكْنَا
الْقُرُونِ الْأُولَى بِصَآئِرَ لِلنَّاسِ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً
لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُونَ)

(43. And indeed We gave Musa -- after We had destroyed the generations of old -- the Scripture as an enlightenment for mankind, and a guidance and a mercy, that they might remember.)

The Blessings which Allah bestowed upon Musa

Allah tells us about the blessings which He gave His servant and Messenger Musa, the speaker, may the best of peace and blessings from his Lord be upon him, He revealed the Tawrah to him after He destroyed Fir`awn and his chiefs.

(مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا أَهْلَكْنَا الْقُرُونِ الْأُولَى)

(after We had destroyed the generations of old) After the revelation of the Tawrah, no nation would again be punished with an overwhelming calamity; instead the believers were now commanded to fight the enemies of Allah among the idolators, as Allah says:

(وَجَاءَ فِرْعَوْنُ وَمَنْ قَبْلَهُ وَالْمُؤْتَفِكَتُ بِالْخَاطِئَةِ
- فَعَصَوْا رَسُولَ رَبِّهِمْ فَأَخَذَهُمْ أَخْذَةً رَآيِيَه)

(And Fir'awn, and those before him, and the cities overthrown sin. And they disobeyed their Lord's Messenger, so He seized them with a strong punishment) (69:9-10).

(بَصَائِرَ لِلنَّاسِ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً)

(as an enlightenment for mankind, and a guidance and a mercy,) guidance from blindness and error. A guidance to the truth and a mercy means, to show the way towards doing righteous deeds.

(لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُونَ)

(that they might remember.) means, that the people might be reminded and guided by it.

(وَمَا كُنْتَ بِجَانِبِ الْغَرْبِيِّ إِذْ قَضَيْنَا إِلَى مُوسَى الْأَمْرَ وَمَا كُنْتَ مِنَ الشَّاهِدِينَ - وَلَكِنَّا أَنْشَأْنَا قُرُونًا فَتَطَاوَلَ عَلَيْهِمُ الْعُمُرُ وَمَا كُنْتَ ثَاوِيًا فِي أَهْلِ مَدْيَنَ تَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِنَا وَلَكِنَّا مُرْسِلِينَ - وَمَا كُنْتَ بِجَانِبِ الطُّورِ إِذْ نَادَيْنَا وَلَكِنْ رَحْمَةً مِّن رَّبِّكَ لِتُنْذِرَ قَوْمًا مَّا أَتَهُم مِّن نَّذِيرٍ مِّن قَبْلِكَ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُونَ - وَلَوْ لَا أَن تُصِيبَهُمْ مُّصِيبَةٌ بِمَا قَدَّمَتْ أَيْدِيهِمْ فَيَقُولُوا رَبَّنَا لَوْلَا أَرْسَلْتَ إِلَيْنَا رَسُولًا فَنَتَّبِعَ آيَاتِكَ وَنَكُونُ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ)

(44. And you were not on the western side (of the Mount), when We made clear to Musa the commandment, and you were not among the witnesses.) (45. But We created generations, and long were the ages that passed over them. And you were not a dweller among the people of Madyan, reciting Our Ayat to them. But it is We Who kept sending (Messengers).) (46. And you were not at the side of At-Tur when We called. But (you are sent) as a mercy from your Lord, to give warning to a people to whom no warner had come before you, in order that they may remember or receive admonition.) (47. And if (We had) not (sent you to the people of Makkah) in case a calamity should seize them for what their hands have sent forth, they would have said: "Our Lord! Why did You not send us a Messenger We would then have followed Your Ayat and would have been among the believers.")

Proof of the Prophethood of Muhammad

Allah points out the proof of the prophethood of Muhammad , whereby he told others about matters of the past, and spoke about them as if he were hearing and seeing them for himself. But he was an illiterate man who could not read books, and he grew up among a people who knew nothing of such things. Similarly, Allah told him about Maryam and her story, as Allah said:

(وَمَا كُنْتَ لَدَيْهِمْ إِذْ يُلقُونَ أَقْلَمَهُمْ أَيُّهُمْ يَكْفُلُ مَرْيَمَ وَمَا كُنْتَ لَدَيْهِمْ إِذْ يَخْتَصِمُونَ)

(You were not with them, when they cast lots with their pens as to which of them should be charged with the care of Maryam; nor were you with them when they disputed) (3:44), meaning, `you were not present then, but Allah has revealed this to you.' Similarly, Allah told him about Nuh and his people, and how He saved Nuh and drowned his people, then He said:

(تِلْكَ مِنْ أَنْبَاءِ الْغَيْبِ نُوحِيهَا إِلَيْكَ مَا كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُهَا أَنْتَ وَلَا قَوْمُكَ مِنْ قَبْلِ هَذَا فَاصْبِرْ إِنَّ الْعَقَبَةَ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ)

(This is of the news of the Unseen which We reveal unto you ; neither you nor your people knew it before this. So, be patient. Surely, the (good) end is for those who have Taqwa) (11:49). And at the end of the same Surah (Hud) Allah says:

(ذَلِكَ مِنْ أَنْبَاءِ الْفَرَى نَقْصُهُ عَلَيْكَ)

(That is some of the news of the towns which We relate unto you) (11: 100). And here, after telling the story of Musa from beginning to end and how Allah began His revelation to him and spoke with him, Allah says:

(وَمَا كُنْتَ بِجَانِبِ الْغَرْبِيِّ إِذْ قَضَيْنَا إِلَى مُوسَى الْأَمْرَ)

(And you were not on the western side (of the Mount), when We made clear to Musa the commandment,) meaning, `you -- O Muhammad -- were not on the western side of the mountain where Allah spoke to Musa from the tree which was to the east of it, in the valley.'

(وَمَا كُنْتَ مِنَ الشَّاهِدِينَ)

(and you were not among the witnesses.) `to that event, but Allah has revealed this to you,' so that it may be evidence and proof of events which happened centuries ago, for people have forgotten the evidence that Allah established against them and what was revealed to the earlier Prophets.

(وَمَا كُنْتَ تَأْوِيًا فِي أَهْلِ مَدْيَنَ تَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ
ءَايَاتِنَا)

(And you were not a dweller among the people of Madyan, reciting Our Ayat to them.) meaning, `you were not living among the people of Madyan reciting Our Ayat to them, when you started to tell about Our Prophet Shu`ayb and what he said to his people and how they responded.'

(وَلَكِنَّا كُنَّا مُرْسِلِينَ)

(But it is We Who kept sending.) means, `but We revealed that to you and sent you to mankind as a Messenger.'

(وَمَا كُنْتَ بِجَانِبِ الطُّورِ إِذْ نَادَيْنَا)

(And you were not at the side of At-Tur when We called.) Qatadah said that:

(وَمَا كُنْتَ بِجَانِبِ الطُّورِ إِذْ نَادَيْنَا)

(And you were not at the side of At-Tur when We did call.) refers to Musa, and this -- and Allah knows best -- is like the Ayah:

(وَمَا كُنْتَ بِجَانِبِ الْغَرِيِّ إِذْ قَضَيْنَا إِلَىٰ مُوسَى
الْأَمْرَ)

(And you were not on the western side (of the Mount), when We made clear to Musa the commandment,) Here Allah puts it in a different and more specific way by describing it as a call. This is like the Ayat:

(وَإِذْ نَادَىٰ رَبُّكَ مُوسَىٰ)

(And (remember) when your Lord called Musa) (26:10).

(إِذْ نَادَاهُ رَبُّهُ بِالْوَادِ الْمُقَدَّسِ طُوًى)

(When his Lord called him in the sacred valley of Tuwa) (79:16).

(وَنَدَيْنَاهُ مِنْ جَانِبِ الطُّورِ الْأَيْمَنِ وَقَرَّبْنَاهُ نَحِيًّا
(

(And We called him from the right side of At-Tur, and made him draw near to Us for a talk with him) (19:52).

(وَلَكِنْ رَحْمَةً مِّن رَّبِّكَ)

(But (you are sent) as a mercy from your Lord,) means, 'you were not a witness to any of those things, but Allah has revealed them to you and told you about them as a mercy from Him to you and to His servants, by sending you to them,'

(لِنُنْذِرَ قَوْمًا مَّا أَتَهُم مِّن نَّذِيرٍ مِّن قَبْلِكَ لَعَلَّهُمْ
يَتَذَكَّرُونَ)

(to give warning to a people to whom no warner had come before you, in order that they may remember or receive admonition.) means, 'so that they may be guided by that which you bring from Allah.'

(وَلَوْ لَا أَن تُصِيبَهُم مُّصِيبَةٌ بِمَا قَدَّمَتْ أَيْدِيهِمْ
فَيَقُولُوا رَبَّنَا لَوْلَا أَرْسَلْتَ إِلَيْنَا رَسُولًا)

(And if (We had) not (sent you to the people of Makkah) -- in case a calamity should seize them for (the deeds) that their hands have sent forth, they would have said: "Our Lord! Why did You not send us a Messenger) meaning: 'and We have sent you to them to establish proof against them, and to give them no excuse when the punishment of Allah comes to them because of their disbelief, lest they offer the excuse that no Messenger or warner came to them.' This is like what Allah says about the situation after He revealed His blessed Book the Qur'an:

(أَن تَقُولُوا إِنَّمَا أُنْزِلَ الْكِتَابُ عَلَى طَائِفَتَيْنِ مِن
قَبْلِنَا وَإِن كُنَّا عَنْ دِرَاسَتِهِمْ لَغَفْلِينَ أَوْ تَقُولُوا لَوْ
أَنَّا أُنْزِلَ عَلَيْنَا الْكِتَابُ لَكُنَّا أَهْدَىٰ مِنْهُمْ فَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ
بَيِّنَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةٌ)

(Lest you should say: "The Book was sent down only to two sects before us, and for our part, we were in fact unaware of what they studied." Or lest you should say: "If only the Book had been sent down to us, we would surely have been better guided than they." So, now has come unto you a clear proof from your Lord, and a guidance and a mercy) (6:156-157).

(رُسُلًا مُّبَشِّرِينَ وَمُنْذِرِينَ لِئَلَّا يَكُونَ لِلنَّاسِ عَلَى
اللَّهِ حُجَّةٌ بَعْدَ الرُّسُلِ)

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

(يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولُنَا يُبَيِّنُ لَكُمْ عَلَى
فُتْرَةٍ مِّنَ الرُّسُلِ أَنْ تَقُولُوا مَا جَاءَنَا مِن بَشِيرٍ
وَلَا نَذِيرٍ فَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ بَشِيرٌ وَنَذِيرٌ)

(O People of the Scripture! Now has come to you Our Messenger making (things) clear unto you, after a break in (the series of) Messengers, lest you say: "There came unto us no bringer of glad tidings and no warner." But now has come unto you a bringer of glad tidings and a warner) (5:19). And there are many similar Ayat.

(فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمُ الْحَقُّ مِنْ عِنْدِنَا قَالُوا لَوْلَا أُوتِيَ
مِثْلَ مَا أُوتِيَ مُوسَىٰ أَوَلَمْ يَكْفُرُوا بِمَا أُوتِيَ
مُوسَىٰ مِنْ قَبْلُ قَالُوا سِحْرَانِ تَظَاهَرَا وَقَالُوا إِنَّا
بِكُلِّ كَافِرٍ مِن قَبْلِنَا مِنكُمْ شَرِكٌ لَّكُمُ الَّذِينَ
أَهْدَىٰ مِنْهُمْ أَتَبِعُوهُ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ - فَإِنْ لَّمْ
يَسْتَجِيبُوا لَكَ فَاعْلَمْ أَنَّمَا يَتَّبِعُونَ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ وَمَنْ
أَضَلُّ مِمَّنْ اتَّبَعَ هَوَاهُ بَغَيْرِ هُدًى مِّنَ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ

لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ - وَلَقَدْ وَصَّلْنَا لَهُمُ الْقَوْلَ
لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُونَ)

(48. But when the truth has come to them from Us, they say: "Why is he not given the like of what was given to Musa Did they not disbelieve in that which was given to Musa of old" They say: "Two kinds of magic, each helping the other!" And they say: "Verily, in both we are disbelievers." (49. Say: "Then bring a Book from Allah, which is a better guide than these two, that I may follow it, if you are truthful.") (50. But if they answer you not, then know that they only follow their own lusts. And who is more astray than one who follows his own lusts, without guidance from Allah Verily, Allah guides not the people who are wrongdoers.) (51. And indeed now We have conveyed the Word to them, in order that they may remember.)

The stubborn Response of the Disbelievers

Allah tells us that if people were to be punished before proof was established against them, they would use the excuse that no Messenger came to them, but when the truth did come to them through Muhammad , in their stubbornness, disbelief, ignorance and misguided thinking, they said:

(لَوْلَا أُوتِيَ مِثْلَ مَا أُوتِيَ مُوسَى)

(Why is he not given the like of what was given to Musa) Meaning -- and Allah knows best -- many signs like the staff, the hand, the flood, the locusts, the lice, the frogs, the blood, the destruction of crops and fruits -- which made things difficult for the enemies of Allah -- and the parting of the sea, the clouds (following the Children of Israel in the wilderness and) shading them, the manna and quails, and other clear signs and definitive proof, miracles which Allah wrought at the hands of Musa as evidence and proof against Fir`awn and his chiefs and the Children of Israel. But all of this had no effect on Fir`awn and his chiefs; on the contrary, they denied Musa and his brother Harun, as Allah tells us:

(أَجِئْنَا لِتُلْفِتَنَا عَمَّا وَجَدْنَا عَلَيْهِ ءَابَاءَنَا وَتَكُونَ
لَكُمَا الْكِبْرِيَاءُ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَا نَحْنُ لَكُمَا
بِمُؤْمِنِينَ)

(Have you come to us to turn us away from what we found our fathers following, and that you two may have greatness in the land We are not going to believe you two!) (10:78)

(فَكَذَّبُوهُمَا فَكَانُوا مِنَ الْمُهْلَكِينَ)

(So they denied them both and became of those who were destroyed.) (23:48)

The Rebellious do not believe in Miracles

Allah says here:

(أَوَلَمْ يَكْفُرُوا بِمَا أُوتِيَ مُوسَىٰ مِنْ قَبْلُ)

(Did they not disbelieve in that which was given to Musa of old) Did not mankind disbelieve in those mighty signs which were given to Musa

(قَالُوا سِحْرَانِ تَظَاهَرَا)

(They say: "Two kinds of magic, each helping the other!") cooperating or working one with the other.

(وَقَالُوا إِنَّا بِكُلِّ كَافِرُونَ)

(And they say: "Verily, in both we are disbelievers.") meaning, `we disbelieve in each of them.' Because of the close relationship between Musa and Harun, mention of one includes the other.

False Accusation that Musa and Harun (peace be upon them both) practiced Magic

bin Jabr said, "The Jews told Quraysh to say this to Muhammad , then Allah said: ` Did they not disbelieve in that which was given to Musa of old They say: Two kinds of magic, each helping the other!' This refers to Musa and Harun, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon them both,

(تَظَاهَرَا)

(each helping the other) i.e., working together and supporting one another." This was also the view of Sa`id bin Jubayr and Abu Razin that the phrase "two kinds of magic" referred to Musa and Harun. This is a good suggestion. And Allah knows best.

The Response to this False Accusation

(سِحْرَانِ تَظَاهَرَا)

(Two kinds of magic, each helping the other!) `Ali bin Abi Talhah and Al-`Awfi reported that Ibn `Abbas said that this refers to the Tawrah and the Qur'an, because Allah says next:

(قُلْ فَأْتُوا بِكِتَابٍ مِّنْ عِندِ اللَّهِ هُوَ أَهْدَىٰ مِنْهُمَا أَتَّبِعُهُ)

(Say: "Then bring a Book from Allah, which is a better guide than these two that I may follow it.") Allah often mentions the Tawrah and the Qur'an together, as in the Ayat:

(قُلْ مَنْ أَنزَلَ الْكِتَابَ الَّذِي جَاءَ بِهِ مُوسَىٰ نُورًا وَهُدًى لِلنَّاسِ)

(Say: "Who then sent down the Book which Musa brought, a light and a guidance to mankind...") until:

(وَهَذَا كِتَابٌ أَنزَلْنَاهُ مُبَارَكٌ)

(And this is a blessed Book which We have sent down.) (6:91-92) And at the end of the same Surah, Allah says:

(ثُمَّ ءَاتَيْنَا مُوسَىٰ الْكِتَابَ تَمَامًا عَلَىٰ الَّذِي أَحْسَنَ)

(Then, We gave Musa the Book, to complete (Our favor) upon those who would do right) (6:154).

(وَهَذَا كِتَابٌ أَنزَلْنَاهُ مُبَارَكٌ فَاتَّبِعُوهُ وَاتَّقُوا لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ)

(And this is a blessed Book which We have sent down, so follow it and have Taqwa of Allah, that you may receive mercy) (6:155). And the Jinn said:

(إِنَّا سَمِعْنَا كِتَابًا أُنزِلَ مِنْ بَعْدِ مُوسَىٰ مُصَدِّقًا لِّمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ)

(Verily, we have heard a Book sent down after Musa, confirming what came before it) (46:30). Waraqah bin Nawfal said, "This is An-Namus, who came down to Musa." And those who are possessed of insight know instinctively that among the many Books which He has sent down to

His Prophets, there is no Book more perfect, more eloquent or more noble than the Book which He revealed to Muhammad , which is the Qur'an. Next to it in status and greatness is the Book which Allah revealed to Musa bin `Imran, which is the Book concerning which Allah says:

(إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَا التَّوْرَةَ فِيهَا هُدًى وَنُورٌ يَحْكُمُ بِهَا
النَّبِيُّونَ الَّذِينَ أَسْلَمُوا لِلَّذِينَ هَادُوا وَالرَّبَّانِيُّونَ
وَالْأَحْبَارُ بِمَا اسْتُحْفِظُوا مِنْ كِتَابِ اللَّهِ وَكَانُوا
عَلَيْهِ شُهَدَاءَ)

(Verily, We did send down the Tawrah, therein was guidance and light, by which the Prophets, who submitted themselves to Allah's will, judged for the Jews. And the rabbis and the priests, for to them was entrusted the protection of Allah's Book, and they were witnesses thereto) (5:44). The Injil was revealed as a continuation and complement of the Tawrah and to permit some of the things that had been forbidden to the Children of Israel. Allah says:

(قُلْ فَأْتُوا بِكِتَابٍ مِّنْ عِندِ اللَّهِ هُوَ أَهْدَىٰ مِنْهُمَا
أَتَّبِعُهُ إِن كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ)

(Then bring a Book from Allah, which is a better guide than these two, that I may follow it, if you are truthful.) meaning, 'in your efforts to refute the truth with false arguments.'

(فَإِنْ لَّمْ يَسْتَجِيبُوا لَكَ)

(But if they answer you not,) means, 'if they do not respond to what you tell them, and do not follow the truth,'

(فَاعْلَمْ أَنَّمَا يُتَّبَعُونَ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ)

(then know that they only follow their own lusts.) means, with no basis or evidence. p

(وَمَنْ أَضَلُّ مِمَّنْ اتَّبَعَ هَوَاهُ بِغَيْرِ هُدًى مِّنَ اللَّهِ)

(And who is more astray than one who follows his own lusts, without guidance from Allah) means, with no guidance taken from the Book of Allah.

(إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ)

(Verily, Allah guides not the people who are wrongdoers.)

(وَلَقَدْ وَصَّلْنَا لَهُمُ الْقَوْلَ)

(And indeed now We have conveyed the Word) Mujahid said: "We have explained the Word to them." As-Suddi said something similar. Qatadah said: "Allah is saying, `He has told them what He did in the past and what He will do in the future.'"

(لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُونَ)

(in order that they may remember.) Mujahid and others said:

(وَصَّلْنَا لَهُمْ)

(We have conveyed the Word) means, to Quraysh.

(الَّذِينَ ءَاتَيْنَاهُمُ الْكِتَابَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِ هُمْ بِهِ يُؤْمِنُونَ -
وَإِذَا يُنْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِمْ قَالُوا ءَامَنَّا بِهِ إِنَّهُ الْحَقُّ مِنْ رَبِّنَا
إِنَّا كُنَّا مِنْ قَبْلِهِ مُسْلِمِينَ - أُولَٰئِكَ يُؤْتُونَ أَجْرَهُمْ
مَرَّتَيْنِ بِمَا صَبَرُوا وَيَذَرُونَ بِالْحَسَنَةِ السَّيِّئَةَ
وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنْفِقُونَ - وَإِذَا سَمِعُوا اللَّغْوَ
أَعْرَضُوا عَنْهُ وَقَالُوا لَنَا أَعْمَلُنَا وَلَكُمْ أَعْمَلُكُمْ
سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ لَا نَبْتَغِي الْجَاهِلِينَ)

(52. Those to whom We gave the Scripture before it, they believe in it.) (53. And when it is recited to them, they say: "We believe in it. Verily, it is the truth from our Lord. Indeed even before it we have been from Muslims.") (54. These will be given their reward twice over, because they are patient, and repel evil with good, and spend out of what We have provided for them.) (55. And when they hear evil vain talk, they withdraw from it and say: "To us our deeds, and to you your deeds. Peace be to you. We seek not (the way of) the ignorant.")

The Believers among the People of the Book

Allah tells us that the pious scholars among the People of the Book believe in the Qur'an, as He says:

(الَّذِينَ آتَيْنَاهُمُ الْكِتَابَ يَتْلُونَهُ حَقَّ تِلَاوَتِهِ أُولَٰئِكَ
يُؤْمِنُونَ بِهِ)

(Those to whom We gave the Book recite it as it should be recited, they are the ones who believe therein) (2:121).

(وَإِنَّ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ لَمَنْ يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَمَا أُنْزِلَ
إِلَيْكُمْ وَمَا أُنْزِلَ إِلَيْهِمْ خَشَعِينَ لِلَّهِ)

(And there are, certainly, among the People of the Scripture, those who believe in Allah and in that which has been revealed to you, and in that which has been revealed to them, humbling themselves before Allah) (3:199).

(قُلْ ءَامِنُوا بِهِ أَوْ لَا تُؤْمِنُوا إِنَّ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ
مِنْ قَبْلِهِ إِذَا يُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِمْ يَخِرُّونَ لِلْأَذْقَانِ سُجَّدًا -
وَيَقُولُونَ سُبْحَانَ رَبَّنَا إِنَّا كَانُوا وَعَدُ رَبِّنَا لَمَفْعُولًا
(

(Verily, those who were given knowledge before it, when it is recited to them, fall down on their faces in humble prostration. And they say: "Glory be to our Lord! Truly, the promise of our Lord must be fulfilled.") (17:107-108)

(وَلَتَجِدَنَّ أَقْرَبَهُم مَّوَدَّةَ لِلَّذِينَ ءَامِنُوا الَّذِينَ قَالُوا
إِنَّا نَصَارَىٰ)

(And you will find the nearest in love to the believers those who say: "We are Christians. ") until:

(فَاكْتُبْنَا مَعَ الشَّاهِدِينَ)

(so write us down among the witnesses) (5:82-83). Sa`id bin Jubayr said, "This was revealed concerning seventy priests who were sent by An-Najashi (ruler of Ethiopia). When they came to the Prophet , he recited to them:

(يس - وَالْقُرْآنَ الْحَكِيمَ)

(Ya Sn. By the Qur'an, full of wisdom.) (36:1-2) until he completed the Surah. They began to weep, and they embraced Islam. These other Ayat were revealed concerning them:

(الَّذِينَ آتَيْنَهُمُ الْكِتَابَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِ هُمْ بِهِ يُؤْمِنُونَ -
وَإِذَا يُتْلَى عَلَيْهِمْ قَالُوا ءَامَنَّا بِهِ إِنَّهُ الْحَقُّ مِنْ رَبِّنَا
إِنَّا كُنَّا مِنْ قَبْلِهِ مُسْلِمِينَ)

(Those to whom We gave the Scripture before it, they believe in it. And when it is recited to them, they say: "We believe in it. Verily, it is the truth from our Lord. Indeed even before it we have been from Muslims.") meaning, `even before the Qur'an came we were Muslims, i.e., we believed in One God and were sincerely responding to Allah's commands.'

(أُولَئِكَ يُؤْتَوْنَ أَجْرَهُم مَّرَّتَيْنِ بِمَا صَبَرُوا)

(These will be given their reward twice over, because they are patient,) means, those who have this characteristic -- that they believed in the first Book and then in the second. Allah says:

(بِمَا صَبَرُوا)

(because they are patient,) meaning, in their adherence to the truth, for taking such thing upon oneself is not easy for people. It was reported in the Sahih from the Hadith of `Amir Ash-Sha`bi from Abu Burdah that Abu Musa Al-Ash`ari, may Allah be pleased with him, said that the Messenger of Allah said:

«ثَلَاثَةٌ يُؤْتَوْنَ أَجْرَهُم مَرَّتَيْنِ: رَجُلٌ مِنْ أَهْلِ
الْكِتَابِ آمَنَ بِنَبِيِّهِ ثُمَّ آمَنَ بِي، وَعَبْدٌ مَمْلُوكٌ أَدَّى
حَقَّ اللَّهِ وَحَقَّ مَوْلَاهُ، وَرَجُلٌ كَانَتْ لَهُ أُمَةٌ،
فَأَدَّبَهَا فَأَحْسَنَ تَأْدِيبَهَا، ثُمَّ أَعْتَقَهَا فَتَزَوَّجَهَا»

(There are three who will be given their reward twice: a man among the People of the Book who believed in his Prophet then believed in me; a slave who fulfills his duty towards Allah and towards his master; and a man who has a slave woman and educates her and teaches her good manners, then he frees her and marries her.) Imam Ahmad recorded that Abu Umamah said:

"On the day of the Conquest of Makkah (I was walking alongside the Messenger of Allah as he was riding, and he said some very beautiful words, including the following:

«مَنْ أَسْلَمَ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابَيْنِ فَلَهُ أَجْرُهُ مَرَّتَيْنِ وَلَهُ مَا لَنَا وَعَلَيْهِ مَا عَلَيْنَا وَمَنْ أَسْلَمَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ فَلَهُ أَجْرُهُ وَلَهُ مَا لَنَا وَعَلَيْهِ مَا عَلَيْنَا»

(Whoever among the people of the two Books becomes Muslim, he will have his reward twice, and he has the same rights and duties as we do. Whoever among the idolators becomes Muslim will have one reward, and he has the same rights and duties as we do.)" Allah's saying:

(وَيَذَرُونَ بِالْحَسَنَةِ السَّيِّئَةَ)

(and repel evil with good,) means, they do not respond to evil in kind, rather they forgive and overlook.

(وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنْفِقُونَ)

(and spend out of what We have provided for them.) meaning, 'from the lawful provision that We have given them, they spend on their families and relatives as they are required to do, and they pay Zakah and give voluntary charity.'

(وَإِذَا سَمِعُوا اللَّغْوَ أَعْرَضُوا عَنْهُ)

(And when they hear evil vain talk, they withdraw from it) meaning, they do not mix with the people who indulge in such talk, rather they do as Allah says:

(وَإِذَا مَرُّوا بِاللَّغْوِ مَرُّوا كِرَامًا)

(and if they pass by some evil vain talk, they pass by it with dignity) (25:72).

(وَقَالُوا لَنَا أَعْمَالُنَا وَلَكُمْ أَعْمَالُكُمْ سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ لَا نَبْتَغِي الْجَاهِلِينَ)

(and they say: "To us our deeds, and to you your deeds. Peace be to you. We seek not (the way of) the ignorant.") means, if some foolish person speaks to them in a foolish manner and says something to which it does not befit them to respond, they turn away from him and do not respond in kind with ugly speech. They never say anything but good words. Allah says of them that they say:

(لَنَا أَعْمَلْنَا وَلَكُمْ أَعْمَلَكُمْ سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ لَا نَبْتَغِي
الْجَاهِلِينَ)

(To us our deeds, and to you your deeds. Peace be to you. We seek not (the way of) the ignorant.) meaning, 'we do not seek the way of the ignorant and we do not like it.'

(إِنَّكَ لَا تَهْدِي مَنْ أَحْبَبْتَ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ يَهْدِي مَنْ
يَشَاءُ وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِالْمُهْتَدِينَ - وَقَالُوا إِنْ تَتَّبِعِ
الْهُدَىٰ مَعَكَ نُتَخَطَّفُ مِنْ أَرْضِنَا أَوَلَمْ نُمْكِّنْ لَهُمْ
حَرَمًا ءَامِنًا يُجْبَىٰ إِلَيْهِ ثَمَرَاتُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ رِّزْقًا
مِّنْ لَّدُنَّا وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ)

(56. Verily, you guide not whom you like, but Allah guides whom He wills. And He knows best those who are the guided.) (57. And they say: "If we follow the guidance with you, we would be snatched away from our land." Have We not established for them a secure sanctuary, to which are brought fruits of all kinds, a provision from Ourselves, but most of them know not.)

Allah guides Whom He wills

Allah says to His Messenger : `O Muhammad:

(لَا تَهْدِي مَنْ أَحْبَبْتَ)

(Verily, you guide not whom you like)' meaning, 'the matter does not rest with you; all that you have to do is convey the Message, and Allah will guide whom He wills, and His is the ultimate wisdom,' as He says:

(لَيْسَ عَلَيْكَ هُدَاهُمْ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ يَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ)

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

(وَمَا أَكْثَرُ النَّاسِ وَلَوْ حَرَصْتَ بِمُؤْمِنِينَ)

(And most of mankind will not believe even if you desire it eagerly.) (12:103) This Ayah is even more specific than the following:

(إِنَّكَ لَا تَهْدِي مَنْ أَحْبَبْتَ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ يَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِالْمُهْتَدِينَ)

(Verily, you guide not whom you like, but Allah guides whom He wills. And He knows best those who are the guided.) meaning: Allah knows best who deserves to be guided and who deserves to be misguided. It was recorded in the Two Sahihs that this Ayah was revealed concerning Abu Talib, the paternal uncle of the Messenger of Allah . He used to protect the Prophet, support him and stand by him. He loved the Prophet dearly, but this love was a natural love, i.e., born of kinship, not a love that was born of the fact that he was the Messenger of Allah . When he was on his deathbed, the Messenger of Allah called him to Faith and to enter Islam, but the decree overtook him and he remained a follower of disbelief, and Allah's is the complete wisdom. Az-Zuhri said: "Sa`id bin Al-Musayyib narrated to me that his father, Al-Musayyib bin Hazan Al-Makhzumi, may Allah be pleased with him, said: "When Abu Talib was dying, the Messenger of Allah came to him and found Abu Jahl bin Hisham and `Abdullah bin Abi Umayyah bin Al-Mughirah with him. The Messenger of Allah said:

«يَا عَمَّ قُلْ: لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ، كَلِمَةً أَحَاجُّ لَكَ بِهَا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ»

(O my uncle, say La ilaha illallah, a word which I may use as evidence in your favor before Allah)in the Hereafter(.) Abu Jahl bin Hisham and `Abdullah bin Abi Umayyah said: `O Abu Talib, will you leave the religion of `Abdul-Muttalib' The Messenger of Allah kept urging him to say La ilaha illallah, and they kept saying, `Will you leave the religion of `Abdul-Muttalib' -- until, at the very end, he said that he was on the religion of `Abdul-Muttalib, and he refused to say La ilaha illallah. The Messenger of Allah said:

«وَاللَّهِ لَأَسْتَغْفِرَنَّ لَكَ مَا لَمْ أَنُحَ عَنْكَ»

(By Allah, I shall certainly seek forgiveness for you unless I am told not to.) Then Allah revealed:

(مَا كَانَ لِلنَّبِيِّ وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَنْ يَسْتَغْفِرُوا لِلْمُشْرِكِينَ وَلَوْ كَانُوا أَوْلَىٰ قُرْبَىٰ)

(It is not (proper) for the Prophet and those who believe to ask Allah's forgiveness for the idolators, even though they be of kin) (9:113). And there was revealed concerning Abu Talib the Ayah,

(إِنَّكَ لَا تَهْدِي مَنْ أَحْبَبْتَ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ يَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ)

(Verily, you guide not whom you like, but Allah guides whom He wills.)" This was recorded (by Al-Bukhari and Muslim) from the Hadith of Az-Zuhri.

The Excuses made by the People of Makkah for not believing, and the Refutation of Their Excuses

(وَقَالُوا إِن تَتَّبِعِ الْهُدَىٰ مَعَكَ نُتَخَطَّفُ مِنْ أَرْضِنَا)

(And they say: "If we follow the guidance with you, we would be snatched away from our land.") Allah tells us that this is the excuse which was given by some of the disbelievers for not following true guidance. They said to the Messenger of Allah :

(إِن تَتَّبِعِ الْهُدَىٰ مَعَكَ نُتَخَطَّفُ مِنْ أَرْضِنَا)

(If we follow the guidance with you, we would be snatched away from our land.), meaning, 'we are afraid that if we follow the message of guidance that you have brought, and go against the pagan Arab tribes around us, they will seek to do us harm and wage war against us, and they may snatch us away from wherever we may be.' Allah said in response to them:

(أَوَلَمْ نُمْكِّنْ لَهُمْ حَرَمًا ءَامِنًا)

(Have We not established for them a secure sanctuary,) meaning, the excuse they give is a lie and is false, because Allah has put them in a secure city and a venerated sanctuary which has been safe from the time it was built -- how could this sanctuary be safe for them when they believed in disbelief and Shirk, and how could it not be safe for them when they become Muslims and follow the truth

(يُجْبَىٰ إِلَيْهِ ثَمَرَاتُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ)

(to which are brought fruits of all kinds,) means, all kinds of fruits from the surrounding regions, from At-Ta'if and elsewhere. Similarly, the people of Makkah engaged in trade and other goods also came to their city.

(رِزْقًا مِّن لَّدُنَّا وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ)

(a provision from Ourselves, but most of them know not.) - this is why they said what they said.

(وَكَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا مِنْ قَرْيَةٍ بَطِرَتْ مَعِيشَتَهَا فَتِلْكَ
مَسْكِنُهُمْ لَمْ تُسْكَنْ مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا وَكُنَّا نَحْنُ
الْوَرِثِينَ - وَمَا كَانَ رَبُّكَ مُهْلِكَ الْقُرَى حَتَّى
يَبْعَثَ فِي أُمَمٍ رَسُولًا يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِنَا وَمَا كُنَّا
مُهْلِكِي الْقُرَى إِلَّا وَأَهْلُهَا ظَالِمُونَ)

(58. And how many a town have We destroyed, which was thankless for its means of livelihood! And those are their dwellings, which have not been inhabited after them except a little. And verily, We have been the heirs.) (59. And never will your Lord destroy the towns until He sends to their mother town a Messenger reciting to them Our Ayat. And never would We destroy the towns unless the people thereof are wrongdoers.)

The Destruction of Towns, which are not destroyed until Evidence is established against Them

Referring to the people of Makkah, Allah says:

(وَكَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا مِنْ قَرْيَةٍ بَطِرَتْ مَعِيشَتَهَا)

(And how many a town have We destroyed, which was thankless for its means of livelihood!) They were arrogant transgressors who denied Allah's blessing of giving them ample provision. This is like the Ayah, o

(وَضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا قَرْيَةً كَانَتْ ءَامِنَةً مُطْمَئِنَّةً
يَأْتِيهَا رِزْقُهَا رَغَدًا مِنْ كُلِّ مَكَانٍ)

(And Allah puts forward the example of a township, that dwelt secure and well-content: its provision coming to it in abundance from every place) until:

(فَأَخَذَهُمُ الْعَذَابُ وَهُمْ ظَالِمُونَ)

(So the torment overtook them while they were wrongdoers.) (16:112-113) Allah said:

(فَتِلْكَ مَسْكِنُهُمْ لَمْ تُسْكَنْ مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا)

(And those are their dwellings, which have not been inhabited after them except a little.) Their land became empty and desolate, and you can see nothing but their dwellings.

(وَكُنَّا نَحْنُ الْوَرَثِينَ)

(And verily, We have been the heirs.) Their towns became ruins, with none remaining. Then Allah tells us of His justice and that He does not destroy anyone unjustly; on the contrary, He destroys those whom He destroys after establishing proof against them. So, he says:

(وَمَا كَانَ رَبُّكَ مُهْلِكَ الْقُرَى حَتَّى يَبْعَثَ فِي أُمِّهَا)

(And never will your Lord destroy the towns until He sends to their mother town) i.e., Makkah -

(رَسُولًا يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِنَا)

(a Messenger reciting to them Our Ayat.) This indicates that the Unlettered Prophet, Muhammad was sent from the Mother of Cities as a Messenger to all cities and towns, Arab and non-Arab alike. This is like the Ayat:

(لَتُنذِرَ أُمَّ الْقُرَى وَمَنْ حَوْلَهَا)

(so that you may warn the Mother of Towns and all those around it) (6:92).

(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),

(لَأُنذِرَكُمْ بِهِ وَمَنْ بَلَغَ)

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

(وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِهِ مِنَ الْأَحْزَابِ فَالنَّارُ مَوْعِدُهُ)

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

(وَإِنْ مِنْ قَرْيَةٍ إِلَّا نَحْنُ مُهْلِكُوهَا قَبْلَ يَوْمِ الْقِيَمَةِ
أَوْ مُعَذِّبُوهَا عَذَابًا شَدِيدًا)

(And there is not a town but We shall destroy it before the Day of Resurrection, or punish it with a severe torment.) (17:58). Allah tells us that He will destroy every town before the Day of Resurrection, as He says:

(وَمَا كُنَّا مُعَذِّبِينَ حَتَّى نَبْعَثَ رَسُولًا)

(And We never punish until We have sent a Messenger.) (17:15). Allah has sent the Unlettered Prophet to all the towns (all of mankind), because he has been sent to the Mother of Cities, their source to which they all return. It was recorded in the Two Sahihs that the Prophet said:

«بُعِثْتُ إِلَى الْأَحْمَرِ وَالْأَسْوَدِ»

(I have been sent to the red and the black.) Prophethood ended with him, and there is no Prophet or Messenger to come after him, but his way will remain as long as night and day remain, until the Day of Resurrection.

(وَمَا أُوتِيتُمْ مِّنْ شَيْءٍ فَمَتَّعُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا
وَزِينَتْهَا وَمَا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ خَيْرٌ وَأَبْقَى أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ -
أَفَمَنْ وَعَدْنَاهُ وَعْدًا حَسَنًا فَهُوَ لَاقِيهِ كَمَنْ مَّتَّعْنَاهُ
مَتَّعَ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا ثُمَّ هُوَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ مِنَ
الْمُحْضَرِينَ)

(60. And whatever you have been given is an enjoyment of the life of the world and its adornment, and that which is with Allah is better and will remain forever. Have you then no sense) (61. Is he whom We have promised an excellent promise -- which he will find true -- like him whom We have made to enjoy the luxuries of the life of the world, then on the Day of Resurrection, he will be among those brought up)

**This World is transient and the One Whose concern is this World is
not equal to the One Whose concern is the Hereafter**

Allah tells us about the insignificance of this world and its contemptible adornments which are nothing in comparison to the great and lasting delights which Allah prepared for His righteous servants in the Hereafter. As Allah says:

(مَا عِنْدَكُمْ يَنْفَدُ وَمَا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ بَاقٍ)

(Whatever is with you, will be exhausted, and whatever is with Allah will remain) (16:96).

(وَمَا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ خَيْرٌ لِلْأَبْرَارِ)

(and that which is with Allah is the best for the most righteous.) (3:198)

(وَمَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا فِي الْآخِرَةِ إِلَّا مَتَعٌ)

(whereas the life of this world as compared with the Hereafter is but a brief passing enjoyment.) (13:26)

(بَلْ تُؤْثِرُونَ الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا - وَالْآخِرَةُ خَيْرٌ وَأَبْقَى)

(Nay, you prefer the life of this world. Although the Hereafter is better and more lasting.) (87:16-17). The Messenger of Allah said:

«وَاللَّهِ مَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا فِي الْآخِرَةِ إِلَّا كَمَا يَغْمِسُ أَحَدُكُمْ إصْبَعَهُ فِي الْيَمِّ، فَلْيَنْظُرْ مَاذَا يَرْجِعُ إِلَيْهِ»

(By Allah, the life of this world in comparison to the Hereafter is as if one of you were to dip his finger in the sea; let him see what comes back to him.) Allah's saying:

(أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ)

(Have you then no sense) means, do those who prefer this world to the Hereafter have no sense

(أَفَمَنْ وَعَدْنَاهُ وَعْداً حَسَناً فَهُوَ لَاقِيهِ كَمَنْ مَتَّعْنَاهُ
مَتَّعَ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا ثُمَّ هُوَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ مِنَ
الْمُحْضَرِينَ)

(Is he whom We have promised an excellent promise -- which he will find true -- like him whom We have made to enjoy the luxuries of the life of the world, then on the Day of Resurrection, he will be among those brought up) Is the one who believes in the reward which Allah has promised in return for righteous deeds, which he will undoubtedly attain, like one who disbelieves in the meeting with Allah and in His promises and threats He is only enjoying a few days in this life,

(ثُمَّ هُوَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ مِنَ الْمُحْضَرِينَ)

(then on the Day of Resurrection, he will be among those brought up.) Mujahid and Qatadah said: "He will be among those who are punished." It was said that this was revealed concerning the Messenger of Allah and Abu Jahl, or that it was revealed concerning Hamzah and Ali, and Abu Jahl. Both views were narrated from Mujahid. The apparent meaning is that it is more general than that. This is like the Ayah where Allah describes a believer in Paradise looking out at his companion who is in Hell, and saying:

(وَلَوْ لَا نِعْمَةٌ رَبِّي لَكُنْتُ مِنَ الْمُحْضَرِينَ)

(Had it not been for the grace of my Lord, I would certainly have been among those brought forth (to Hell).) (37:57) And Allah says:

(وَلَقَدْ عَلِمَتِ الْجِنَّةُ إِنَّهُمْ لَمُحْضَرُونَ)

(but the Jinn know well that they have indeed to appear (before Him)) (37:158).

(وَيَوْمَ يُنَادِيهِمْ فَيَقُولُ أَيْنَ شُرَكَائِيَ الَّذِينَ كُنْتُمْ
تَزْعُمُونَ - قَالَ الَّذِينَ حَقَّ عَلَيْهِمُ الْقَوْلُ رَبَّنَا
هَؤُلَاءِ الَّذِينَ أَغْوَيْنَا أَغْوَيْنَهُمْ كَمَا غَوَيْنَا تَبَرَّأْنَا
إِلَيْكَ مَا كَانُوا إِلَّا نَا يَعْبُدُونَ - وَقِيلَ ادْعُوا
شُرَكَاءَكُمْ فَدَعَوْهُمْ فَلَمْ يَسْتَجِيبُوا لَهُمْ وَرَأَوْا

الْعَذَابَ لَوْ أَنَّهُمْ كَانُوا يَهْتَدُونَ - وَيَوْمَ يُنْدِيهِمْ
فَيَقُولُ مَاذَا أَجَبْتُمُ الْمُرْسَلِينَ - فَعَمِيَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ
الْأَنْبَاءُ يَوْمَئِذٍ فَهُمْ لَا يَتَسَاءَلُونَ - فَأَمَّا مَنْ تَابَ
وَعَامَنَ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَعَسَىٰ أَن يَكُونَ مِنَ
الْمُفْلِحِينَ)

(62. And (remember) the Day when He will call to them and say: "Where are My (so-called) partners whom you used to assert") (63. Those about whom the Word will have been fulfilled will say: "Our Lord! These are they whom we led astray. We led them astray, as we were astray ourselves. We declare our innocence before You. It was not us they worshipped.") (64. And it will be said: "Call upon your partners," and they will call upon them, but they will give no answer to them, and they will see the torment. If only they had been guided!) (65. And the Day He will call to them, and say: "What answer gave you to the Messengers") (66. Then the news of a good answer will be obscured to them on that Day, and they will not be able to ask one another.) (67. But as for him who repented, believed, and did righteous deeds, then perhaps he will be among those who are successful.)

The Idolators and Their Partners and the Enmity between Them in the Hereafter

Allah informs of how He will rebuke the idolators on the Day of Resurrection, when He will call them and say:

(أَيْنَ شُرَكَائِيَ الَّذِينَ كُنْتُمْ تَزْعُمُونَ)

("Where are My (so-called) partners whom you used to assert") meaning, `where are the gods which you used to worship in the world, the idols and rivals Can they help you or save you' This is said in the nature of a rebuke and warning, as in the Ayah,

(وَلَقَدْ جِئْتُمُونَا فُرَادَىٰ كَمَا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ
وَتَرَكْتُمْ مَا خَوَّلْنَاكُمْ وَرَاءَ ظُهُورِكُمْ وَمَا نَرَىٰ
مَعَكُمْ شُفْعَاءَكُمُ الَّذِينَ زَعَمْتُمْ أَنَّهُمْ فِيكُمْ شُرَكَاءُ
لَقَدْ نَقَطَ بَيْنَكُمْ وَضَلَّ عَنْكُمْ مَا كُنْتُمْ تَزْعُمُونَ)

(And truly, you have come unto Us alone as We created you the first time. You have left behind you all that which We had bestowed on you. We see not with you your intercessors whom you

claimed to be partners with Allah. Now all relations between you and them have been cut off, and all that you used to claim has vanished from you.) (6:94) His saying:

(قَالَ الَّذِينَ حَقَّ عَلَيْهِمُ الْقَوْلُ)

(Those about whom the Word will have been fulfilled) means the Shayatin and evil Jinn, and those who used to advocate disbelief.

(رَبَّنَا هَؤُلَاءِ الَّذِينَ أَغْوَيْنَا أَغْوَيْنَهُمْ كَمَا غَوَيْنَا
تَبَرَّأْنَا إِلَيْكَ مَا كَانُوا إِيَّانَا يَعْبُدُونَ)

("Our Lord! These are they whom we led astray. We led them astray, as we were astray ourselves. We declare our innocence before You. It was not us they worshipped.") They will testify against them and say that they led them astray, then they will declare their innocence of their worship. This is like the Ayat:

(وَاتَّخَذُوا مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ إِلَهَةً لِيَكُونُوا لَهُمْ عِزًّا)
(كَلَّا سَيَكْفُرُونَ بِعِبَادَتِهِمْ وَيَكُونُونَ عَلَيْهِمْ ضِدًّا)

(And they have taken gods besides Allah, that they might give them honor, power and glory. Nay, but they will deny their worship of them, and become opponents to them.) (19:81-82)

(وَمَنْ أَضَلُّ مِمَّن يَدْعُو مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ مَنْ لَّا
يَسْتَجِيبُ لَهُ إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَمَةِ وَهُمْ عَنِ دُعَائِهِمْ
غَافِلُونَ - وَإِذَا حُشِرَ النَّاسُ كَانُوا لَهُمْ أَعْدَاءً
وَكَانُوا بِعِبَادَتِهِمْ كَافِرِينَ)

(And who is more astray than one who calls besides Allah, who will not answer him till the Day of Resurrection, and who are (even) unaware of their calls to them And when mankind are gathered, they will become their enemies and will deny their worshipping.) (46:5-6). Ibrahim Al-Khalil, peace be upon him, said to his people:

(إِنَّمَا اتَّخَذْتُمْ مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ أَوْثَانًا مَّوَدَّةَ بَيْنِكُمْ فِي
الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا ثُمَّ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ يَكْفُرُ بَعْضُكُم بِبَعْضٍ
وَيَلْعَنُ بَعْضُكُم بَعْضًا)

(You have taken idols instead of Allah. The love between you is only in the life of this world, but on the Day of Resurrection, you shall disown each other, and curse each other.) (29:25)

(إِذْ تَبَرَّأَ الَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوا مِنَ الَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوا وَرَأَوْا
الْعَذَابَ وَتَقَطَّعَتْ بِهِمُ الْأَسْبَابُ)

(When those who were followed disown those who followed, and they see the torment, then all their relations will be cut off from them) until:

(وَمَا هُمْ بِخَارِجِينَ مِنَ النَّارِ)

(And they will never get out of the Fire.) (2:166-167). Allah says:

(وَقِيلَ ادْعُوا شُرَكَاءَكُمْ)

(And it will be said (to them): "Call upon your partners,") meaning, 'to save you from the predicament you are in, as you hoped that they would do in this world.'

(قَدَعَوْهُمْ فَلَمْ يَسْتَجِيبُوا لَهُمْ وَرَأَوْا الْعَذَابَ)

(and they will call upon them, but they will give no answer to them, and they will see the torment.) means, they will realize for sure that they are inevitably destined for the Fire. His saying:

(لَوْ أَنَّهُمْ كَانُوا يَهْتَدُونَ)

(If only they had been guided!) means, when they see the punishment with their own eyes, they will wish that they had been among the guided in this world. This is like the Ayah,

(وَيَوْمَ يَقُولُ نَادُوا شُرَكَائِيَ الَّذِينَ زَعَمْتُمْ
قَدَعَوْهُمْ فَلَمْ يَسْتَجِيبُوا لَهُمْ وَجَعَلْنَا بَيْنَهُم مَّوْبِقًا -

وَرَأَى الْمُجْرِمُونَ النَّارَ فَظَنُّوا أَنَّهُمْ مُوَاقِعُوهَا
وَلَمْ يَجِدُوا عَنْهَا مَصْرَفًا)

(And the Day He will say: "Call those partners of Mine whom you claimed." Then they will cry unto them, but they will not answer them, and We shall put a Mawbiq (a barrier) between them. And the criminals, shall see the Fire and apprehend that they have to fall in it. And they will find no way of escape from there.) (18:52-53) Their attitude towards the Messengers on the Day of Resurrection

(وَيَوْمَ يُنَادِيهِمْ فَيَقُولُ مَاذَا أَجَبْتُمُ الْمُرْسَلِينَ)

(And the Day He will call to them, and say: "What answer gave you to the Messengers") The first call will be concerning the issue of Tawhid, which includes evidences of the prophethood -- 'What was your response to the Messengers who were sent to you How did you deal with them' This is like the questions which will be asked of a person in his grave: 'who is your Lord who is your Prophet and what is your religion' The believer will testify that there is no God except Allah and that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger, but the disbelievers will say, "Oh, oh, I do not know." So he will have no answer on the Day of Resurrection except to remain silent, because whoever is blind in this world (i.e., does not see Allah's signs and believes not in Him), will be blind in the Hereafter, and more astray. Allah says:

(فَعَمِيَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ الْأَنْبَاءُ يَوْمَئِذٍ فَهُمْ لَا يَتَسَاءَلُونَ)

(Then the news of a good answer will be obscured to them on that Day, and they will not be able to ask one another.) Mujahid said: "The proof will be obscured from them," so they will not be able to ask one another for help by virtue of their blood ties. Allah's saying:

(فَأَمَّا مَنْ تَابَ وَءَامَنَ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا)

(But as for him who repented, believed, and did righteous deeds,) means, in this world.

(فَعَسَى أَن يَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُفْلِحِينَ)

(then perhaps he will be among those who are successful.) means, on the Day of Resurrection. And the word; perhaps (عَسَى), when used in reference to Allah, may He be exalted, implies that the thing described will inevitably come to pass, and this will undoubtedly happen by the grace and mercy of Allah.

(وَرَبُّكَ يَخْلُقُ مَا يَشَاءُ وَيَخْتَارُ مَا كَانَ لَهُمُ
الْخَيْرَةُ سُبْحَنَ اللَّهِ وَتَعَالَى عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ -

وَرَبُّكَ يَعْلَمُ مَا تُكِنُّ صُدُورُهُمْ وَمَا يُعْلِنُونَ - وَهُوَ
اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ لَهُ الْحَمْدُ فِي الْأُولَى وَالْآخِرَةِ
وَلَهُ الْحُكْمُ وَإِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ)

(68. And your Lord creates whatsoever He wills and chooses, no choice have they. Glorified is Allah, and exalted above all that they associate.) (69. And your Lord knows what their breasts conceal, and what they reveal.) (70. And He is Allah; La ilaha illa Huwa, His is the praise in the first and in the last, and His is the decision, and to Him shall you be returned.)

Allah Alone is the One Who has the Power of Creation, Knowledge and Choice

Allah tells us that He is the only One Who has the power to create and make decisions, and there is no one who can dispute with Him in that or reverse His judgement. His saying:

(وَرَبُّكَ يَخْلُقُ مَا يَشَاءُ وَيَخْتَارُ)

(And your Lord creates whatsoever He wills and chooses,) means, whatever He wills, for what He wills, happens; and what He does not will, does not happen. All things, good and bad alike, are in His Hands and will return to Him.

(مَا كَانَ لَهُمُ الْخِيَرَةُ)

(no choice have they.) is a negation, according to the correct view. This is like the Ayah,

(وَمَا كَانَ لِمُؤْمِنٍ وَلَا مُؤْمِنَةٍ إِذَا قَضَى اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ أَمْرًا أَنْ يَكُونَ لَهُمُ الْخِيَرَةُ مِنْ أَمْرِهِمْ)

(It is not for a believer, man or woman, when Allah and His Messenger have decreed a matter that they should have any option in their decision) (33:36). Then Allah says:

(وَرَبُّكَ يَعْلَمُ مَا تُكِنُّ صُدُورُهُمْ وَمَا يُعْلِنُونَ)

(And your Lord knows what their breasts conceal, and what they reveal.) He knows what is hidden in their hearts, just as He knows what they do openly.

(سَوَاءٌ مِّنْكُمْ مَّنْ أَسَرَ الْقَوْلَ وَمَنْ جَهَرَ بِهِ وَمَنْ هُوَ مُسْتَخْفٍ بِاللَّيْلِ وَسَارِبٌ بِالنَّهَارِ)

(It is the same whether any of you conceals his speech or declares it openly, whether he be hid by night or goes forth freely by day.) (13:10).

(وَهُوَ اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ)

(And He is Allah; La ilaha illa Huwa,) meaning, He is unique in His divinity, for none is to be worshipped besides Him, and there is no lord who can create what he wills and chooses besides Him.

(لَهُ الْحَمْدُ فِي الْأُولَىٰ وَالْآخِرَةِ)

(His is the praise, in the first and in the last,) in all that He does, He is to be praised for His justice and wisdom.

(وَلَهُ الْحُكْمُ)

(His is the decision,) that none can put back, because of His might, power, wisdom and mercy.

(وَالِيهِ تُرْجَعُونَ)

(and to Him shall you be returned.) means, all of you on the Day of Resurrection, and everyone will be rewarded or punished according to his deeds, good and evil alike, and absolutely none of their deeds will be concealed from Him.

(قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِنْ جَعَلَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكُمُ اللَّيْلَ سَرْمَدًا إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الْقِيَمَةِ مَنْ إِلَهٌ غَيْرُ اللَّهِ يَأْتِيكُمْ بِضِيَاءٍ أَوْ لَآ تَسْمَعُونَ - قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِنْ جَعَلَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكُمُ النَّهَارَ سَرْمَدًا إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الْقِيَمَةِ مَنْ إِلَهٌ غَيْرُ اللَّهِ يَأْتِيكُمْ بِاللَّيْلِ تَسْكُونُونَ فِيهِ أَفَلَا تُبْصِرُونَ - وَمِنْ رَحْمَتِهِ

جَعَلَ لَكُمُ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ لِتَسْكُنُوا فِيهِ وَلِتَبْتَغُوا مِنْ
فَضْلِهِ وَلِعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ)

(71. Say: "Tell me! If Allah made the night continuous for you till the Day of Resurrection, which god besides Allah could bring you light Will you not then hear") (72. Say: "Tell me! If Allah made the day continuous for you till the Day of Resurrection, which god besides Allah could bring you night wherein you rest Will you not then see") (73. 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 -- and in order that you may be grateful.)

Night and Day are among the Blessings of Allah and are Signs of Tawhid

Allah reminds His servants of His favors towards them by subjugating for them the night and day, without which they could not survive. He explains that if He made the night continuous, lasting until the Day of Resurrection, that would be harmful for them and would cause boredom and stress. So He says:

(مَنْ إِلَهٌ غَيْرُ اللَّهِ يَأْتِيكُمْ بِضِيَاءٍ)

(which god besides Allah could bring you light) meaning, 'with which you could see things and which would bring you relief'

(أَفَلَا تَسْمَعُونَ)

(Will you not then hear) Then Allah tells us that if He had made the day continuous, lasting until the Day of Resurrection, that would also be harmful for them and their bodies would get tired from so much movement and activity. Allah says:

(مَنْ إِلَهٌ غَيْرُ اللَّهِ يَأْتِيكُمْ بِلَيْلٍ تَسْكُنُونَ فِيهِ)

(which god besides Allah could bring you night wherein you rest) meaning, 'to rest from your work and activity.'

(أَفَلَا تُبْصِرُونَ وَمِنْ رَحْمَتِهِ)

(Will you not then see It is out of His mercy) towards you,

(جَعَلَ لَكُمُ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ)

(that He has made for you the night and the day) He created both,