

(Everyone is going to taste death,)

(وَنَبَلُوكُمْ بِالْأَسْرِّ وَالْأَيْسَرِ فَتْنَةً)

(and We shall test you with evil and with good by way of trial.) Meaning, "We shall test you, sometimes with difficulties and sometimes with ease, to see who will give thanks and who will be ungrateful, who will have patience and who will despair." ` Ali bin Abi Talhah reported from Ibn ` Abbas:

(وَنَبَلُوكُمْ)

(and We shall test you) means, We will test you,

(بِالْأَسْرِّ وَالْأَيْسَرِ فَتْنَةً)

(with evil and with good by way of trial.) means, with difficulties and with times of prosperity, with health and sickness, with richness and poverty, with lawful and unlawful, obedience and sin, with guidance and misguidance.

(وَإِلَيْنَا تُرْجَعُونَ)

(And to Us you will be returned.) means, and We will requite you according to your deeds.

(وَإِذَا رَأَى الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِنْ يَتَّخِذُونَكَ إِلَّا هُزُوًا
أَهَذَا الَّذِي يَذْكُرُ آلِهَتَكُمْ وَهُمْ يَذْكُرُ الرَّحْمَنَ هُمْ
كَفَرُونَ - خُلِقَ الْإِنْسَانُ مِنْ عَجَلٍ سَأُورِيكُمْ
آيَاتِي فَلَا تَسْتَعْجِلُونَ)

(36. And when those who disbelieved see you, they take you not except for mockery (saying): "Is this the one who talks about your gods" While they disbelieve at the mention of the Most Gracious.) (37. Man is created of haste. I will show you My Ayat. So ask Me not to hasten (them).)

How the Idolators mocked the Prophet Allah tells His Prophet :

(وَإِذَا رَأَى الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا)

(And when those who disbelieved see you,) meaning, the disbelievers of the Quraysh, such as Abu Jahl and his like.

(إِنْ يَتَّخِذُونَكَ إِلَّا هُزُوًا)

(they take you not except for mockery) means, they make fun of you and insult you, saying,

(أَهَذَا الَّذِي يَذْكُرُ آلِهَتَكُمْ)

("Is this the one who talks about your gods") meaning, is this the one who insults your gods and ridicules your intelligence Allah says:

(وَهُمْ يَذْكُرُ الرَّحْمَنَ هُمْ كَافِرُونَ)

(While they disbelieve at the mention of the Most Gracious.) meaning, they disbelieve in Allah and yet they mock the Messenger of Allah . As Allah says:

(وَإِذَا رَأَوْكَ إِنْ يَتَّخِذُونَكَ إِلَّا هُزُوًا أَهَذَا الَّذِي
بَعَثَ اللَّهُ رَسُولًا - إِنْ كَادَ لِيُضِلَّنَا عَنْ آلِهَتِنَا
لَوْلَا أَنْ صَبَرْنَا عَلَيْهَا وَسَوْفَ يَعْلَمُونَ حِينَ
يَرَوْنَ الْعَذَابَ مَنْ أَضَلُّ سَبِيلًا)

(And when they see you, they treat you only in mockery (saying): "Is this the one whom Allah has sent as a Messenger He would have nearly misled us from our gods, had it not been that we were patient and constant in their worship!" And they will know, when they see the torment, who it is that is most astray from the path!))25:41-42(

(خُلِقَ الْإِنْسَانُ مِنْ عَجَلٍ)

(Man is created of haste.) This is like the Ayah:

(وَكَانَ الْإِنْسَانُ عَجُولًا)

(and man is ever hasty))17:11(, in all matters. The reason why the haste of man is mentioned here is that when mention is made of those who mock the Messenger , (the believers) will want to avenge them swiftly, and that so should happen sooner. Allah says,

(خُلِقَ الْإِنْسَانُ مِنْ عَجَلٍ)

(Man is created of haste.) because He delays (the punishment) until a time when, once He seizes him, He will never let him go. He delays it, then He hastens it; He waits, then He does not delay any longer. So He says:

(سَأُورِيكُمْ آيَاتِي)

(I will show you My Ayat) meaning, My vengeance, ruling and power over those who disobey Me.

(فَلَا تَسْتَعْجِلُونِ)

(So ask Me not to hasten (them).)

(وَيَقُولُونَ مَتَى هَذَا الْوَعْدُ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ لَوْ
يَعْلَمُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا حِينَ لَا يَكْفُونَ عَنْ وُجُوهِهِمْ
النَّارَ وَلَا عَنْ ظُهُورِهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يُنصَرُونَ بَلْ
تَأْتِيهِمْ بَغْتَةً فَتَبْهَتُهُمْ فَلَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ رَدَّهَا وَلَا هُمْ
يُنظَرُونَ)

(38. And they say: "When will this promise (come to pass), if you are truthful.") (39. If only those who disbelieved knew (the time) when they will not be able to ward off the Fire from their faces, nor from their backs, and they will not be helped.) (40. Nay, it will come upon them all of a sudden and will perplex them, and they will have no power to avert it nor will they get respite.)

The Idolators seek to hasten on the Punishment

Allah also tells us how the idolators seek to hasten punishment upon themselves, out of denial, rejection, disbelief, stubbornness and a belief that it will never happen. He says:

(وَيَقُولُونَ مَتَى هَذَا الْوَعْدُ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ)

(And they say: "When will this promise (come to pass), if you are truthful".) And Allah says:

(لَوْ يَعْلَمُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا حِينَ لَا يَكْفُونَ عَنْ
وُجُوهِهِمُ النَّارَ وَلَا عَنْ ظُهُورِهِمْ)

(If only those who disbelieved knew (the time) when they will not be able to ward off the Fire from their faces, nor from their backs,) meaning, if only they knew for certain that it will inevitably come to pass, they would not seek to hasten it. If only they knew how the torment will overwhelm them from above them and from beneath their feet.

(لَهُمْ مِّنْ فَوْقِهِمْ ظُلٌّ مِّنَ النَّارِ وَمِنْ تَحْتِهِمْ ظُلٌّ)

(They shall have coverings of Fire, above them and coverings (of Fire) beneath them))39:16(

(لَهُمْ مِّنْ جَهَنَّمَ مِهَادٌ وَمِنْ فَوْقِهِمْ غَوَاشٍ)

(Theirs will be a bed of Hell (Fire), and over them coverings (of Hellfire)))7:41(. And in this Ayah Allah says:

(حِينَ لَا يَكْفُونَ عَنْ وُجُوهِهِمُ النَّارَ وَلَا عَنْ ظُهُورِهِمْ)

(when they will not be able to ward off the Fire from their faces, nor from their backs,) And Allah says:

(سَرَّابِيلُهُمْ مِّنْ قَطِرَانٍ وَتَغْشَىٰ وُجُوهُهُمُ النَّارُ)

(Their garments will be of tar, and fire will cover their faces))14:50(. The torment will surround them on all sides,

(وَلَا هُمْ يُنصَرُونَ)

(and they will not be helped.) means, and they will have no helper. This is like the Ayah:

(وَمَا لَهُمْ مِّنَ اللَّهِ مِن وَّاقٍ)

(And they have no guardian against Allah))13:34(.

(بَلْ تَأْتِيهِمْ بَغْتَةً)

(Nay, it will come upon them all of a sudden) means, the Fire will come upon them suddenly, i.e., it will take them by surprise.

(فَتَبْهَتُهُمْ)

(and will perplex them,) means, it will scare them, and they will succumb to it in confusion, not knowing what they are doing.

(فَلَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ رَدَّهَا)

(and they will have no power to avert it) means, they will have no means of doing so.

(وَلَا هُمْ يُنْظَرُونَ)

(nor will they get respite.) means, it will not be delayed for them even for an instant.

(وَلَقَدْ اسْتَهْزَىءَ بِرُسُلٍ مِّن قَبْلِكَ فَحَاقَ بِالَّذِينَ
سَخِرُوا مِنْهُمْ مَا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِءُونَ قُلْ مَن
يَكْلُوكُم بِالْأَيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ مِنَ الرَّحْمَنِ بَلْ هُمْ عَن
ذِكْرِ رَبِّهِمْ مُّعْرِضُونَ أَمْ لَهُمْ آلِهَةٌ تَمْنَعُهُمْ مِّن
دُونِنَا لَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ نَصْرَ أَنفُسِهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ مِّنَّا
يُصْحَبُونَ)

(41. Indeed (many) Messengers were mocked before you, but the scoffers were surrounded by what they used to mock.) (42. Say: "Who can guard and protect you in the night or in the day from the Most Gracious" Nay, but they turn away from the remembrance of their Lord.) (43. Or have they gods who can guard them from Us They have no power to help themselves, nor can they be protected from Us.)

The Lessons to be learned from Those Who mocked the Messengers in the Past

Allah says consoling His Messenger for the pain and insult caused by the mockery and disbelief of the idolators,

(وَلَقَدْ اسْتَهْزَىءَ بِرُسُلٍ مِّن قَبْلِكَ فَحَاقَ بِالَّذِينَ
سَخِرُوا مِنْهُمْ مَا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِءُونَ)

(Indeed (many) Messengers were mocked before you, but the scoffers were surrounded by what they used to mock.) meaning, the punishment which they thought would never come to pass. This is like the Ayah:

وَلَقَدْ كُذِّبَتْ رُسُلٌ مِّن قَبْلِكَ فَصَبَرُوا عَلَى مَا
كُذِّبُوا وَأَوْدُوا حَتَّىٰ أَتَاهُمْ نَصْرُنَا وَلَا مُبَدِّلَ
لِكَلِمَاتِ اللَّهِ وَلَقَدْ جَاءَكَ مِن نَّبَاِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ)

(Verily, Messengers were denied before you, but with patience they bore the denial, and they were hurt; till Our help reached them, and none can alter the Words of Allah. Surely, there has reached you the information (news) about the Messengers (before you)))6:34(. Then Allah mentions His favor for His creatures; He protects them by night and by day, taking care of them and watching over them with His Eye that never sleeps.

(قُلْ مَنْ يَكْلُؤُكُمْ بِاللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ مِنَ الرَّحْمَنِ)

(Say: "Who can guard and protect you in the night or in the day from the Most Gracious") means, other than the Most Gracious Himself

(بَلْ هُمْ عَنْ ذِكْرِ رَبِّهِمْ مُّعْرِضُونَ)

(Nay, but they turn away from the remembrance of their Lord.) means, they do not recognize the blessings and favor of Allah towards them; they turn away from His signs and blessings.

(أَمْ لَهُمْ آلِهَةٌ تَمْنَعُهُمْ مِّن دُونِنَا)

(Or have they gods who can guard them from Us) This is a rhetorical question aimed at denouncing and rebuking. The meaning is, do they have any gods who can protect them and take care of them other than Us It is not as they imagine or as they claim. Allah says:

(لَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ نَصْرَ أَنفُسِهِمْ)

(They have no power to help themselves,) these gods on whom they rely instead of Allah cannot even help themselves.

(وَلَا هُمْ مِّنَّا يُصْحَبُونَ)

(nor can they be protected from Us.) Al-`Awfi reported from Ibn `Abbas, "Nor can they be guarded from Us."

(بَلْ مَتَّعْنَا هَؤُلَاءِ وَءَابَاءَهُمْ حَتَّى طَالَ عَلَيْهِمُ
 الْعُمُرُ أَفَلَا يَرَوْنَ أَنَّا نَأْتِي الْأَرْضَ نَنْقُصُهَا مِنْ
 أَطْرَافِهَا أَفَهُمُ الْغَالِبُونَ - قُلْ إِنَّمَا أُنذِرُكُمْ بِالْوَحْيِ
 وَلَا يَسْمَعُ الصَّمُّ الدُّعَاءَ إِذَا مَا يُنذَرُونَ - وَلَئِن
 مَسَّهْمُ نَفْحَةٌ مِّنْ عَذَابِ رَبِّكَ لَيَقُولُنَّ يَوَيْلَنَا إِنَّا كُنَّا
 ظَالِمِينَ - وَنَضَعُ الْمَوَازِينَ الْقِسْطَ لِيَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ
 فَلَا تُظْلَمُ نَفْسٌ شَيْئًا وَإِنْ كَانَ مِثْقَالَ حَبَّةٍ مِّنْ
 خَرْدَلٍ أَتَيْنَا بِهَا وَكَفَى بِنَا حَسِيبِينَ)

(44. Nay, We gave the luxuries of this life to these men and their fathers until the period grew long for them. See they not that We gradually reduce the land from its outlying borders Is it then they who will overcome) (45. Say: "I warn you only by the revelation. "But the deaf will not hear the call, (even) when they are warned.) (46. And if a breath of the torment of your Lord touches them, they will surely cry: "Woe unto us! Indeed we have been wrongdoers.") (47. And We shall set up Balances of justice on the Day of Resurrection, then none will be dealt with unjustly in anything. And if there be the weight of a mustard seed, We will bring it. And sufficient are We to take account.)

How the Idolators are deceived by their long and luxurious Lives in this World, and the Explanation of the Truth

Allah explains that they have been deceived and misled by the luxuries that they enjoy in this world and the long life that they have been given, so they believe that they are following something good. Then Allah warns them:

(أَفَلَا يَرَوْنَ أَنَّا نَأْتِي الْأَرْضَ نَنْقُصُهَا مِنْ
 أَطْرَافِهَا)

(See they not that We gradually reduce the land (in their control) from its outlying borders)
 This is like the Ayah:

وَلَقَدْ أَهْلَكْنَا مَا حَوْلَكُمْ مِّنَ الْقُرَىٰ وَصَرَّفْنَا
الْآيَاتِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ)

(And indeed We have destroyed towns round about you, and We have shown the Ayat in various ways that they might return.) 46:27(Al-Hasan Al-Basri said: "This means the victory of Islam over disbelief." The meaning is: Do they not learn a lesson from the fact that Allah supported those (believers) against their enemies, He destroyed the disbelieving nations and the evil-doing townships, and He saved His believing servants So Allah says:

(أَفَهُمُ الْغَالِبُونَ)

(Is it then they who will overcome) meaning, on the contrary, they are the ones who will be overcome, who will be defeated, humiliated and brought low.

(قُلْ إِنَّمَا أُنذِرُكُمْ بِالْوَحْيِ)

(Say: "I warn you only by the revelation.") meaning, 'I only convey to you the warning of Allah's punishment and vengeance, and this is no more than that which Allah reveals to me.' But this is of no benefit to the one whom Allah has made blind and has put a seal over his hearing and his heart. He says:

(وَلَا يَسْمَعُ الصَّمُّ الدُّعَاءَ إِذَا مَا يُنذَرُونَ)

(But the deaf will not hear the call, (even) when they are warned.)

(وَلَئِن مَّسَّتْهُمْ نَفْحَةٌ مِّنْ عَذَابِ رَبِّكَ لَيَقُولُنَّ يَوَيْلَنَا
إِنَّا كُنَّا ظَالِمِينَ)

(And if a breath of the torment of your Lord touches them, they will surely, cry: "Woe unto us! Indeed we have been wrongdoers!") If these disbelievers were affected by the slightest touch of Allah's punishment, they would confess their sins and admit that they had wronged themselves in this world.

(وَنَضَعُ الْمَوَازِينَ الْقِسْطَ لِيَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ فَلَا تُظْلَمُ
نَفْسٌ شَيْئًا)

(And We shall set up Balances of justice on the Day of Resurrection, then none will be dealt with unjustly in anything.) meaning, "We shall set up the Balances of justice on the Day of

Resurrection." The majority of scholars state that it is one Balance, and the plural form is used here to reflect the large number of deeds which will be weighed therein.

(فَلَا تُظْلَمُ نَفْسٌ شَيْئًا وَإِنْ كَانَ مِثْقَالَ حَبَّةٍ مِّنْ خَرْدَلٍ أَتَيْنَا بِهَا وَكَفَىٰ بِنَا حَاسِبِينَ)

(then none will be dealt with unjustly in anything. And if there be the weight of a mustard seed, We will bring it. And sufficient are We to take account.) This is like the Ayat:

(وَلَا يَظْلِمُ رَبُّكَ أَحَدًا)

(and your Lord treats no one with injustice))18:49(

(إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَظْلِمُ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ وَإِنْ تَكَ حَسَنَةً يُّضَعِفْهَا وَيُؤْتِ مِنْ لَّدُنْهُ أَجْرًا عَظِيمًا)

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

(يَبْنِيَّ إِنَّهَا إِنْ تَكَ مِثْقَالَ حَبَّةٍ مِّنْ خَرْدَلٍ فَتَكُنْ فِي صَخْرَةٍ أَوْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ أَوْ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَأْتِ بِهَا اللَّهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَطِيفٌ خَبِيرٌ)

("O my son! If it be equal to the weight of a grain of mustard seed, and though it be in a rock, or in the heavens or in the earth, Allah will bring it forth. Verily, Allah is Subtle, Well-Aware."))31:16(In the Two Sahihs it was recorded that Abu Hurayrah said that the Messenger of Allah said:

«كَلِمَتَانِ خَفِيفَتَانِ عَلَى اللِّسَانِ، ثَقِيلَتَانِ فِي الْمِيزَانِ، حَبِيبَتَانِ إِلَى الرَّحْمَنِ: سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ وَبِحَمْدِهِ، سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ الْعَظِيمِ»

(Two words which are light on the tongue, heavy in the Balance and beloved to Ar-Rahman: "Subhan Allahi wa bi hamdihi, Subhan Allahil `Azim (Glory and praise be to Allah, Glory be to Allah the Almighty).") Imam Ahmad also recorded that `A'ishah said that one of the Companions

of the Messenger of Allah sat down before him and said, "O Messenger of Allah, I have two slaves who lie to me, betray me and disobey me, and I hit them and insult them. How do I stand with regard to them" The Messenger of Allah said:

«يُحْسَبُ مَا خَانُوكَ وَعَصَوْتَ وَكَذَّبُوكَ وَعِقَابُكَ
إِيَّاهُمْ، فَإِنْ كَانَ عِقَابُكَ إِيَّاهُمْ بِقَدْرِ دُنُوبِهِمْ، كَانَ
كَفَافًا لَكَ وَلَا عَلَيْكَ، وَإِنْ كَانَ عِقَابُكَ إِيَّاهُمْ
دُونَ دُنُوبِهِمْ، كَانَ فَضْلًا لَكَ، وَإِنْ كَانَ عِقَابُكَ
إِيَّاهُمْ فَوْقَ دُنُوبِهِمْ، اقْتَصَّ لَهُمْ مِنْكَ الْفَضْلُ الَّذِي
بَقِيَ قَبْلَكَ»

(The extent to which they betrayed you, disobeyed you and lied to you will be measured against the punishment you meted out to them. If your punishment was commensurate with their misconduct, then you will be equal and you will not have anything counted for you or against you. If your punishment of them was less than that what they deserved for their misconduct, then this will count in your favor. If your punishment of them was more than what they deserved for their misconduct, then Allah will take what is due to them from you.) Then the man started to weep before the Messenger of Allah , and the Messenger of Allah asked,

«مَالَهُ لَا يَقْرَأُ كِتَابَ اللَّهِ

(وَنَضَعُ الْمَوَازِينَ الْقِسْطَ لِيَوْمِ الْقِيَمَةِ فَلَا تُظْلَمُ
نَفْسٌ شَيْئًا وَإِنْ كَانَ مِثْقَالَ حَبَّةٍ مِنْ خَرْدَلٍ أَتَيْنَا
بِهَا وَكَفَى بِنَا حَسِيبِينَ)»

(What is the matter with him Has he not read the words of Allah, (And We shall set up Balances of justice on the Day of Resurrection, then none will be dealt with unjustly in anything. And if there be the weight of a mustard seed, We will bring it. And sufficient are We to take account.)) The man said, "O Messenger of Allah, I think there is nothing better than keeping away from these people -- meaning his slaves -- I call upon you to bear witness that they are all free."

(وَلَقَدْ ءَاتَيْنَا مُوسَىٰ وَهَارُونَ الْفُرْقَانَ وَضِيَاءً
وَذِكْرًا لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ - الَّذِينَ يَخْشَوْنَ رَبَّهُم بِالْغَيْبِ
وَهُمْ مِّنَ السَّاعَةِ مُشْفِقُونَ - وَهَذَا ذِكْرٌ مُّبَارَكٌ
أَنْزَلْنَاهُ أَفَأَنْتُمْ لَهُ مُنْكَرُونَ)

(48. And indeed We granted to Musa and Harun the criterion, and a shining light and a Reminder for those who have Taqwa.) (49. Those who fear their Lord in the unseen, and they are afraid of the Hour.) (50. And this is a blessed Reminder which We have sent down; will you then deny it)

The Revelation of the Tawrah and the Qur'an

We have already noted that Allah often mentions Musa and Muhammad together -- may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon them both -- and He often mentions their Books together as well. He says:

(وَلَقَدْ ءَاتَيْنَا مُوسَىٰ وَهَارُونَ الْفُرْقَانَ)

(And indeed We granted to Musa and Harun the criterion) Mujahid said, "This means the Scripture." Abu Salih said: "The Tawrah." Qatadah said: "The Tawrah, what it permits and it forbids, and how Allah differentiated between truth and falsehood." In conclusion, we may say that the heavenly Books included the distinction between truth and falsehood, guidance and misguidance, transgression and the right way, lawful and unlawful, and that which will fill the heart with light, guidance, fear of Allah and repentance. So Allah says:

(الْفُرْقَانَ وَضِيَاءً وَذِكْرًا لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ)

(the criterion, and a shining light and a Reminder for those who have Taqwa.) meaning, a reminder and exhortation for them. Then He describes them as:

(الَّذِينَ يَخْشَوْنَ رَبَّهُم بِالْغَيْبِ)

(Those who fear their Lord in the unseen.) This is like the Ayah:

(مَنْ خَشِيَ الرَّحْمَنَ بِالْغَيْبِ وَجَاءَ بِقَلْبٍ مُّنِيبٍ)

(Who feared the Most Gracious in the unseen and came with a repenting heart.) 50:33

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَخْشَوْنَ رَبَّهُم بِالْغَيْبِ لَهُمْ مَغْفِرَةٌ
وَأَجْرٌ كَبِيرٌ)

(Verily, those who fear their Lord unseen, theirs will be forgiveness and a great reward.)
67:12(t

(وَهُمْ مِّنَ السَّاعَةِ مُشْفِقُونَ)

(and they are afraid of the Hour.) means, they fear it. Then Allah says:

(وَهَذَا ذِكْرٌ مُّبَارَكٌ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ)

(And this is a blessed Reminder which We have sent down;) means, the Magnificent Qur'an, which falsehood cannot approach, from before it or behind it, revealed by the All-Wise, Worthy of all praise.

(أَفَأَنْتُمْ لَهُ مُنْكَرُونَ)

(will you then deny it) means, will you deny it when it is the utmost in clarity and truth

(وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ رُشْدَهُ مِن قَبْلُ وَكُنَّا بِهِ
عَلَمِينَ - إِذْ قَالَ لِأَبِيهِ وَقَوْمِهِ مَا هَذِهِ التَّمَثِيلُ
الَّتِي أَنْتُمْ لَهَا عَاكِفُونَ - قَالُوا وَجَدْنَا آبَاءَنَا لَهَا
عِبَادِينَ - قَالَ لَقَدْ كُنْتُمْ أَنْتُمْ وَآبَاؤُكُمْ فِي ضَلَالٍ
مُّبِينٍ - قَالُوا أَحِثِّتْنَا بِالْحَقِّ أَمْ أَنْتَ مِنَ اللَّاعِبِينَ -
قَالَ بَلْ رَبُّكُمْ رَبُّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ الَّذِي
فَطَّرَهُنَّ وَأَنَا عَلَىٰ ذَلِكُمْ مِنَ الشَّاهِدِينَ)

(51. And indeed We bestowed aforetime on Ibrahim his guidance, and We were Well-Acquainted with him.) (52. When he said to his father and his people: "What are these images to which you are devoted") (53. They said: "We found our fathers worshipping them.") (54. He said: "Indeed you and your fathers have been in manifest error.") (55. They said: "Have you brought us the Truth, or are you one of those who play about") (56. He said: "Nay, your Lord is

the Lord of the heavens and the earth, Who created them and to that I am one of the witnesses.")

The Story of Ibrahim and his People

Allah tells us about His close Friend Ibrahim, peace be upon him, and how He bestowed upon him guidance aforetime, i.e., from an early age He inspired him with truth and evidence against his people, as Allah says elsewhere:

(وَتِلْكَ حُجَّتُنَا آتَيْنَاهَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ عَلَىٰ قَوْمِهِ)

(And that was Our proof which We gave Ibrahim against his people))6:83(. The point here is that Allah is telling us that He gave guidance to Ibrahim aforetime, i.e., He had already guided him at an early age.

(وَكُنَّا بِهِ عَلَمِينَ)

(and We were Well-Acquainted with him.) means, and he was worthy of that. Then Allah says:

(إِذْ قَالَ لِأَبِيهِ وَقَوْمِهِ مَا هَذِهِ التَّمَثِيلُ الَّتِي أَنْتُمْ لَهَا عَاكِفُونَ)

(When he said to his father and his people: "What are these images, to which you are devoted") This is the guidance which he had been given during his youth: his denunciation of his people's worship of idols instead of Allah. Ibrahim said:

(مَا هَذِهِ التَّمَثِيلُ الَّتِي أَنْتُمْ لَهَا عَاكِفُونَ)

("What are these images, to which you are devoted") meaning, which you worship with such devotion.

(قَالُوا وَجَدْنَا آبَاءَنَا لَهَا عَابِدِينَ)

(They said: "We found our fathers worshipping them.") means, they had no other evidence apart from the misguided actions of their forefathers. Ibrahim said:

(لَقَدْ كُنْتُمْ أَنْتُمْ وَآبَاؤُكُمْ فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ)

(Indeed you and your fathers have been in manifest error.) meaning, Speaking to your fathers whose actions you cite as evidence would be the same as speaking to you. Both you and they are misguided and are not following any straight path.' When he called their intelligence into question, and said that their fathers were misguided and belittled their gods,

(قَالُوا أَجِئْتَنَا بِالْحَقِّ أَمْ أَنْتَ مِنَ اللَّعِينِ)

(They said: "Have you brought us the Truth, or are you one of those who play about") They said: 'These words that you are saying, are you speaking in jest or are you telling the truth For we have never heard such a thing before.'

(قَالَ بَلْ رَبُّكُمْ رَبُّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ الَّذِي فَطَرَهُنَّ)

(He said: "Nay, your Lord is the Lord of the heavens and the earth, Who created them...") meaning, your Lord, beside Whom there is no other god, is the One Who created the heavens and the earth and all that they contain; He is the One Who initiated their creation; He is the Creator of all things.

(وَأَنَا عَلَىٰ ذَلِكُمْ مِنَ الشَّاهِدِينَ)

(and to that I am one of the witnesses.) means, and I bear witness that there is no God other than Him and no Lord except Him.

(وَتَاللَّهِ لَأَكِيدَنَّ أَصْنَمَكُمْ بَعْدَ أَنْ تُوَلُّوا مُدْبِرِينَ -
فَجَعَلَهُمْ جُذَاذًا إِلَّا كَبِيرًا لَهُمْ لَعَلَّهُمْ إِلَيْهِ يَرْجِعُونَ
- قَالُوا مَنْ فَعَلَ هَذَا بِآلِهَتِنَا إِنَّهُ لَمِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ -
قَالُوا سَمِعْنَا فَتًى يَذُكُرُهُمْ يُقَالُ لَهُ إِبْرَاهِيمُ - قَالُوا
فَأْتُوا بِهِ عَلَىٰ أَعْيُنِ النَّاسِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَشْهَدُونَ - قَالُوا
ءَأَنْتَ فَعَلْتَ هَذَا بِآلِهَتِنَا يَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ - قَالَ بَلْ فَعَلَهُ
كَبِيرُهُمْ هَذَا فَاسْأَلُوهُمْ إِنْ كَانُوا يَنْطِقُونَ)

(57. "And by Allah, I shall plot a plan for your idols after you have gone away and turned your backs.") (58. So he broke them to pieces, except the biggest of them, that they might turn to it.) (59. They said: "Who has done this to our gods He must indeed be one of the wrongdoers.") (60. They said: "We heard a young man talking against them, who is called Ibrahim.") (61. They said: "Then bring him before the eyes of the people, that they may testify.") (62. They said: "Are you the one who has done this to our gods, O Ibrahim") (63. He said: "Nay, this one, the biggest of them did it. Ask them, if they can speak!")

How Ibrahim broke the Idols

Then Ibrahim swore an oath, which some of his people heard, to plot against their idols, i.e., to break them and destroy them after they had gone away and turned their backs, when they went out to their festival. They had a festival which they would go out to celebrate. Abu Ishaq reported from Abu Al-Ahwas from `Abdullah Ibn Mas`ud(, "When the people of Ibrahim went out to celebrate their festival, they passed by him and said, `O Ibrahim, are you not coming out with us' He said, `I am sick.'" It was only the day before that he had said,

(وَتَاللَّهِ لَأَكِيدَنَّ أَصْنَمَكُمْ بَعْدَ أَنْ تُوَلُّوا مُدْبِرِينَ)

(And by Allah, I shall plot a plan for your idols after you have gone away and turned your backs.) and some of the people had heard him.

(فَجَعَلَهُمْ جُذَاذًا)

(So he broke them to pieces,) means, he smashed them all, except for the biggest idol. This is like the Ayah,

(فَرَاغَ عَلَيْهِمْ ضَرْبًا بِالْيَمِينِ)

(Then he turned upon them, striking (them) with (his) right hand))37:93(.

(لَعَلَّهُمْ إِلَيْهِ يَرْجِعُونَ)

(that they might turn to it.) It was said that he put a hammer in the hands of the biggest idol so that the people would think that it had become jealous on its own account and objected to these smaller idols being worshipped alongside it, so it had broken them.

(قَالُوا مَنْ فَعَلَ هَذَا بِآلِهَتِنَا إِنَّهُ لَمِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ)

(They said: "Who has done this to our gods He must indeed be one of the wrongdoers.") When they came back and saw what Ibrahim had done to their idols, humiliating them and lowering their status, proving that they were not divine and that those who worshipped them were fools,

(قَالُوا مَنْ فَعَلَ هَذَا بِآلِهَتِنَا إِنَّهُ لَمِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ)

(They said: "Who has done this to our gods He must indeed be one of the wrongdoers.") because of this action of his.

(قَالُوا سَمِعْنَا فَتًى يَذُكُرُهُمْ يُقَالُ لَهُ إِبْرَاهِيمُ)

(They said: "We heard a young man talking against them, who is called Ibrahim.") Those who had heard him swearing to plot against them said, we heard a young man talking about them, and they said that he was called Ibrahim.

(قَالُوا فَأْتُوا بِهِ عَلَىٰ أَعْيُنِ النَّاسِ)

(They said: "Then bring him before the eyes of the people...") meaning, in front of a large audience so that all the people could be present. This was Ibrahim's ultimate purpose, so that he could tell this great gathering about the extent of their ignorance and how foolish they were to worship idols which could not defend themselves from harm or help themselves, so how could they ask them for help

(قَالُوا ءَأَنْتَ فَعَلْتَ هَذَا بِالِهَتِنَا يَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ قَالَ بَلْ
فَعَلَهُ كَبِيرُهُمْ هَذَا)

(They said: "Are you the one who has done this to our gods, O Ibrahim" He said: "Nay, this one, the biggest of them did it...") referring to the one he had left alone and had not broken.

(فَاسْأَلُوهُمْ إِنْ كَانُوا يَنْطِقُونَ)

(Ask them, if they can speak!) He was hoping that they would admit of their own volition that these idols could not speak and that this idol would not say anything because it was inanimate. In the Two Sahihs it was recorded from Abu Hurayrah that the Messenger of Allah said:

«إِنَّ إِبْرَاهِيمَ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ لَمْ يَكْذِبْ غَيْرَ ثَلَاثٍ:
ثَنَتَيْنِ فِي ذَاتِ اللَّهِ قَوْلُهُ:

(Ibrahim, upon him be peace, did not tell lies except on three occasions, two for the sake of Allah -- when he said:

(بَلْ فَعَلَهُ كَبِيرُهُمْ هَذَا)

(Nay, this one, the biggest of them did it.) and when he said:

(إِنِّي سَقِيمٌ)

(Verily, I am sick))37:89(.

قَالَ: وَبَيْنَا هُوَ يَسِيرُ فِي أَرْضِ جَبَّارٍ مِنَ
الْجَبَابِرَةِ وَمَعَهُ سَارَّةٌ، إِذْ نَزَلَ مَنْزِلًا فَأَتَى الْجَبَّارَ
رَجُلٌ فَقَالَ: إِنَّهُ قَدْ نَزَلَ هَهُنَا رَجُلٌ بِأَرْضِكَ مَعَهُ
امْرَأَةٌ أَحْسَنُ النَّاسِ، فَأَرْسَلَ إِلَيْهِ فَجَاءَ، فَقَالَ: مَا
هَذِهِ الْمَرْأَةُ مِنْكَ؟ قَالَ: هِيَ أُخْتِي. قَالَ: فَادْهَبْ
فَأَرْسِلْ بِهَا إِلَيَّ، فَاَنْطَلَقَ إِلَى سَارَّةَ فَقَالَ: إِنَّ هَذَا
الْجَبَّارَ قَدْ سَأَلَنِي عَنْكَ، فَأَخْبَرْتُهُ أَنَّكَ أُخْتِي، فَلَا
تُكْذِبِينِي عِنْدَهُ، فَإِنَّكَ أُخْتِي فِي كِتَابِ اللَّهِ، وَإِنَّهُ
لَيْسَ فِي الْأَرْضِ مُسْلِمٌ غَيْرِي وَغَيْرُكَ، فَاَنْطَلَقَ
بِهَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ ثُمَّ قَامَ يُصَلِّي، فَلَمَّا أَنْ دَخَلَتْ عَلَيْهِ
فَرَأَاهَا أَهْوَى إِلَيْهَا فَتَنَاوَلَهَا فَأَخَذَ أَخْذًا شَدِيدًا،
فَقَالَ: ادْعِي اللَّهَ لِي وَلَا أُضْرِكِ، فَدَعَتْ لَهُ،
فَأَرْسَلَ فَأَهْوَى إِلَيْهَا، فَتَنَاوَلَهَا فَأَخَذَ بِمِثْلِهَا أَوْ
أَشَدَّ، فَفَعَلَ ذَلِكَ الثَّلَاثَةَ، فَأَخَذَ فَذَكَرَ مِثْلَ الْمَرَّتَيْنِ
الْأُولَيَيْنِ، فَقَالَ: ادْعِي اللَّهَ فَلَا أُضْرِكِ، فَدَعَتْ لَهُ
فَأَرْسَلَ، ثُمَّ دَعَا أَدْنَى حُجَّابِهِ فَقَالَ: إِنَّكَ لَمْ تَأْتِنِي
بِإِنْسَانٍ، وَلَكِنَّكَ أَتَيْتَنِي بِشَيْطَانٍ، أَخْرَجَهَا
وَأَعْطَاهَا هَاجِرًا. فَأَخْرَجَتْ وَأَعْطَيْتْ هَاجِرًا،

فَأَقْبَلَتْ، فَلَمَّا أَحَسَّ إِبْرَاهِيمُ بِمَجِيئِهَا، انْقَلَبَ مِنْ
 صَلَاتِهِ، وَقَالَ: مَهَيْمٌ. قَالَتْ: كَفَى اللَّهُ كَيْدَ الْكَافِرِ
 الْفَاجِرِ، وَأَخْدَمَنِي هَاجِرٌ»

. (and when he was traveling in the land of one of the tyrants, and Sarah was with him; when he made camp, a man came to the tyrant and said, "A man has made camp in your land and with him is a woman who is the most beautiful of people." The tyrant sent for Ibrahim, and asked him, "What is the relationship of this woman to you" He said, "She is my sister." The tyrant said, "Go and send her to me." So Ibrahim went to Sarah and said, "This tyrant asked me about you, and I told him that you are my sister, so do not let him think that I am lying. For you are indeed my sister according to the Book of Allah, and there are no Muslims on the earth apart from you and I." So Ibrahim brought her to him, then he stood and prayed. When she entered upon the tyrant, he reached for her desirously once he saw her. But he suffered a severe seizure. So he said, "Pray to Allah for me and I will not harm you." So she prayed for him and it released him. Then he reached for her desirously, but he was stricken similarly before or worse. This continued three times, and each time he said the same as he had said the first time. Then he called the closest of his guards and said, "You have not brought me a human being, you have brought me a devil! Take her out and give her Hajar. So she was taken out and given Hajar, and she went back. When Ibrahim realized that she had come back, he finished his prayer and turned around. He said, "What happened" She said, "Allah took care of the evil disbeliever's plot, and he gave me Hajar as a servant.") Muhammad bin Srin said, "When Abu Hurayrah narrated this Hadith, he said, `This is your mother, O sons of the water of the heaven.'"

(فَرَجَعُوا إِلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ فَقَالُوا إِنَّكُمْ أَنْتُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ -
 ثُمَّ نَكِسُوا عَلَىٰ رُءُوسِهِمْ لَقَدْ عَلِمْتَ مَا هَؤُلَاءِ
 يَنْطِقُونَ - قَالَ أَفَتَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَا
 يَنْفَعُكُمْ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَضُرُّكُمْ - أَفَ لَكُمْ وَلِمَا تَعْبُدُونَ
 مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ)

(64. So they turned to themselves and said: "Verily, you are the wrongdoers.") (65. Then they turned to themselves: "Indeed you know well that these speak not!") (66. He said: "Do you then worship besides Allah, things that can neither profit you nor harm you") (67. "Fie upon you, and upon that which you worship besides Allah! Have you then no sense")

The People's admission of their gods' incapability, and Ibrahim's preaching

Allah tells us that when Ibrahim said what he said, his people

(فَرَجَعُوا إِلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ)

(turned to themselves) meaning, they blamed themselves for not taking precautions and protecting their gods. They said:

(إِنَّكُمْ أَنْتُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ)

(Verily, you are the wrongdoers) i.e., because you neglected them and did not guard them.

(ثُمَّ نَكَسُوا عَلَىٰ رُءُوسِهِمْ)

(Then they turned to themselves) means, they looked at the ground, and said:

(لَقَدْ عَلِمْتَمَا هَؤُلَاءِ يَنْطِقُونَ)

(Indeed you (Ibrahim) know well that these speak not!) Qatadah said: "The people admitted their guilt and confusion, and said,

(لَقَدْ عَلِمْتَمَا هَؤُلَاءِ يَنْطِقُونَ)

("Indeed you know well that these speak not!") ` So how can you tell us to ask them, if they cannot speak and you know that they cannot speak' At this point, when they admitted that, Ibrahim said to them:

(أَفَتَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَا يَنْفَعُكُمْ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَضُرُّكُمْ)

(Do you then worship besides Allah, things that can neither profit you nor harm you) meaning, if they can- not speak and they can neither benefit you nor harm you, then why do you worship them instead of Allah

(أَفْ لَكُمْ وَلِمَا تَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ
(

(Fie upon you, and upon that which you worship besides Allah! Have you then no sense) ` Do you not realize the extent of the mis- guidance and extreme disbelief which you are following, which no one could accept but one who is an igno- rant and evil wrong- doer' He defeated them in argument and left them with no way out. Allah said:

وَتِلْكَ حُجَّتُنَا آتَيْنَاهَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ عَلَىٰ قَوْمِهِ

(And that was Our proof which We gave Ibrahim against his people) 6:83

قَالُوا حَرِّقُوهُ وَانصُرُوا ءَالِهَتَكُمْ إِن كُنْتُمْ فَعَلِينَ
- قُلْنَا بِنَارٍ كُونِي بَرْدًا وَسَلَامًا عَلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ -
وَأَرَادُوا بِهِ كَيْدًا فَجَعَلْنَاهُمُ الْأَخْسَرِينَ)

(68. They said: "Burn him and help your gods, if you will be doing.") (69. We said: "O fire! Be you cool and safety for Ibrahim!") (70. And they wanted to harm him, but We made them the worst losers.)

How Ibrahim was thrown into the Fire and how Allah controlled it

When their arguments were refuted and their incapability became clear, when truth was made manifest and falsehood was defeated, they resorted to using their power and strength, and said:

(حَرِّقُوهُ وَانصُرُوا ءَالِهَتَكُمْ إِن كُنْتُمْ فَعَلِينَ)

("Burn him and help your gods, if you will be doing.") So they gathered together a huge amount of wood. As-Suddi said, "I if a woman was sick, she would make a vow that if she recovered she would bring wood to burn Ibrahim. Then they made a hole in the ground and set it aflame, and it burned with huge sparks and immense flames. There had never been a fire like it. They put Ibrahim, peace be upon him, into a catapult, at the suggestion of a nomadic Kurdish man from Persia." Shu`ayb Al-Jaba'i said, "His name was Hayzan, and Allah caused the earth to swallow him up, and he will remain sinking into it until the Day of Resurrection. When they threw him he said, 'Sufficient for me is Allah, and He is the best disposer of affairs.'" This is similar to what Al-Bukhari recorded from Ibn `Abbas that Ibrahim said, "Sufficient for me is Allah, and He is the best disposer of affairs," when he was thrown into the fire, and Muhammad said it when they said:

إِنَّ النَّاسَ قَدْ جَمَعُوا لَكُمْ فَاخْشَوْهُمْ فَزَادَهُمْ
إِيمَانًا وَقَالُوا حَسْبُنَا اللَّهُ وَنِعْمَ الْوَكِيلُ

(Verily, the people have gathered against you, therefore, fear them. But it increased them in faith, and they said: "Allah is sufficient for us, and He is the best disposer of affairs.") 3:173. Sa`id bin Jubayr reported that Ibn `Abbas said: "When Ibrahim was thrown into the fire, the keeper (angel) of the rain said: 'When will I be commanded to send rain' But the command of Allah was more swift. Allah said:

(يَنَارُ كُونِي بَرْدًا وَسَلَامًا عَلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ)

(O fire! Be you cool and safety for Ibrahim!), and there was no fire left on earth that was not extinguished." Ibn ` Abbas and Abu Al-` Aliyah said: "Were it not for the fact that Allah said,

(وَسَلَامًا)

(and safety), Ibrahim would have been harmed by its coldness." Qatadah said: "On that day there was no creature that did not try to extinguish the fire for Ibrahim, except for the gecko." Az-Zuhri said: "The Prophet commanded that it should be killed, and called it a harmful vermin."

(وَأَرَادُوا بِهِ كَيْدًا فَجَعَلْنَاهُمُ الْأَخْسَرِينَ)

(And they wanted to harm him, but We made them the worst losers.) they were defeated and humiliated, because they wanted to plot against the Prophet of Allah, but Allah planned against them and saved him from the fire, and thus they were defeated.

(وَنَجَّيْنَاهُ وَلُوطًا إِلَى الْأَرْضِ الَّتِي بَارَكْنَا فِيهَا
لِلْعَالَمِينَ - وَوَهَبْنَا لَهُ إِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ نَافِلَةً وَكُلًّا
جَعَلْنَا صَالِحِينَ - وَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ أئِمَّةً يَهْتَدُونَ بِأَمْرِنَا
وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْهِمْ فِعْلَ الْخَيْرَاتِ وَإِقَامَ الصَّلَاةِ وَإِيتَاءَ
الزَّكَاةِ وَكَانُوا لَنَا عَبِيدِينَ - وَلُوطًا آتَيْنَاهُ حُكْمًا
وَعِلْمًا وَنَجَّيْنَاهُ مِنَ الْقَرْيَةِ الَّتِي كَانَتْ تَعْمَلُ
الْخَبِيثَاتِ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا قَوْمَ سَوْءٍ فَسِيقِينَ - وَأَدْخَلْنَاهُ
فِي رَحْمَتِنَا إِنَّهُ مِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ)

(71. And We rescued him and Lut to the land which We have blessed for the nations.) (72. And We bestowed upon him Ishaq, and Ya`qub Nafilatan. Each one We made righteous.) (73. And We made them leaders, guiding by Our command, and We revealed to them the doing of good deeds, performing Salah, and the giving of Zakah, and of Us (Alone) they were the worshippers.) (74. And (remember) Lut, We gave him wisdom and knowledge, and We saved him from the town who practised Al-Khaba'ith. Verily, they were a people given to evil, and were rebellious.) (75. And We admitted him to Our mercy; truly, he was of the righteous.)

The Migration of Ibrahim to Ash-Sham (Greater Syria), accompanied by Lut

Allah tells us that He saved Ibrahim from the fire lit by his people, and brought him out from among them, migrating to the land of Ash-Sham, to the sacred regions thereof.

(وَوَهَبْنَا لَهُ إِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ نَافِلَةً)

(And We bestowed upon him Ishaq, and Ya`qub Nafilatan.) `Ata' and Mujahid said, "Nafilatan means as a gift." Ibn `Abbas, Qatadah and Al-Hakam bin `Uyaynah said, "The gift of a son who has a son," meaning that Ya`qub was the son of Ishaq, as Allah says:

(فَبَشِّرْنَاهَا بِإِسْحَاقَ وَمِنْ وَرَاءِ إِسْحَاقَ يَعْقُوبَ)

(But We gave her glad tidings of Ishaq, and after Ishaq, of Ya`qub) 11:71. `Abdur-Rahman bin Zayd bin Aslam said, "He asked for one son, and said,

(رَبِّ هَبْ لِي مِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ)

("My Lord! Grant me from the righteous.") So Allah gave him Ishaq, and gave him Ya`qub in addition.

(وَكُلًّا جَعَلْنَا صَالِحِينَ)

(Each one We made righteous.) means, both of them were good and righteous people.

(وَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ أَئِمَّةً)

(And We made them leaders,) means, examples to be followed.

(يَهْدُونَ بِأَمْرِنَا)

(guiding by Our command,) inviting to Him by His leave. Allah says:

(وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْهِمْ فِعْلَ الْخَيْرَاتِ وَإِقَامَ الصَّلَاةِ
وَإِيتَاءَ الزَّكَاةِ)

(and We revealed to them the doing of good deeds, performing Salah, and the giving of Zakah,) Here the general is followed by the specific.

(وَكَاثُوا لَنَا عِبْدِينَ)

(and of Us (Alone) they were the worshippers.) means, they did what they enjoined others to do.

The Prophet Lut

Then Allah mentions Lut, whose full name was Lut bin Haran bin Azar. He believed in Ibrahim and followed him, and migrated with him, as Allah says:

(فَأَمَّنَ لَهُ لُوطٌ وَقَالَ إِنِّي مُهَاجِرٌ إِلَىٰ رَبِّي)

(So Lut believed in him. He (Ibrahim) said: "I will emigrate for the sake of my Lord"))29:26(. Allah gave him wisdom and knowledge; He sent Revelation to him, made him a Prophet and appointed him to Sadum (Sodom) and its vicinity, but they rejected him and resisted him, so Allah utterly destroyed them, as He tells us in several places in His Book. Allah says;

(وَلُوطًا آتَيْنَاهُ حُكْمًا وَعِلْمًا وَنَجَّيْنَاهُ مِنَ الْقَرْيَةِ
الَّتِي كَانَتْ تَعْمَلُ الْخَبِيثَاتِ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا قَوْمَ سَوْءٍ
فَاسِقِينَ - وَأَدْخَلْنَاهُ فِي رَحْمَتِنَا إِنَّهُ مِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ
(

(and We saved him from the town who practised Al-Khaba'ith. Verily, they were a people given to evil, and were rebellious. And We admitted him to Our mercy; truly, he was of the righteous.)

(وَنُوحًا إِذْ نَادَىٰ مِن قَبْلُ فَاسْتَجَبْنَا لَهُ فَنَجَّيْنَاهُ
وَأَهْلَهُ مِنَ الْكَرْبِ الْعَظِيمِ - وَنَصَرْنَاهُ مِنَ الْقَوْمِ
الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا قَوْمَ سَوْءٍ
فَأَغْرَقْنَاهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ)

(76. And (remember) Nuh, when he cried (to Us) aforetime. We answered to his invocation and saved him and his family from the great distress.) (77. We helped him against the people who denied Our Ayat. Verily, they were a people given to evil. So We drowned them all.)

Nuh and His People

Allah tells us how He responded to His servant and Messenger Nuh, peace be upon him, when he prayed to Him against his people for their disbelief in him:

(فَدَعَا رَبَّهُ أَنِّي مَغْلُوبٌ فَانْتَصِرَ)

(Then he invoked his Lord (saying): "I have been overcome, so help (me)!"))54:10(

(وَقَالَ نُوحٌ رَبِّ لَا تَذَرْ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ مِنَ
الْكَافِرِينَ دَيَّارًا - إِنَّكَ إِن تَذَرَهُمْ يُضِلُّوا عِبَادَكَ
وَلَا يَلِدُوا إِلَّا فَاجِرًا كَفَّارًا)

(And Nuh said: "My Lord! Leave not any inhabitant of the disbelievers on the earth! If You leave them, they will mislead Your servants, and they will beget none but wicked disbelievers)
)71:26-27(. So Allah says here,

(إِذْ نَادَى مِنْ قَبْلُ فَاسْتَجَبْنَا لَهُ فَنَجَّيْنَاهُ وَأَهْلَهُ)

(And (remember) Nuh, when he cried (to Us) aforetime. We answered to his invocation and saved him and his family) meaning, those who believed with him, as Allah says elsewhere:

(وَأَهْلَكَ إِلَّا مَنْ سَبَقَ عَلَيْهِ الْقَوْلُ وَمَنْ ءَامَنَ وَمَا
ءَامَنَ مَعَهُ إِلَّا قَلِيلٌ)

(...and your family -- except him against whom the Word has already gone forth -- and those who believe. And none believed with him, except a few))11: 40(.

(مِنَ الْكُرْبِ الْعَظِيمِ)

(from the great dis- tress.) meaning, from difficulty, rejection and harm. For he remained among them for one thousand years less fifty, calling them to Allah, and no one had believed in him except for a few. His people were plotting against him and advising one another century after century, generation after generation, to oppose him.

(وَنَصَرْنَاهُ مِنَ الْقَوْمِ)

(We helped him against the people) means, 'We saved him and helped him against the people,'

(الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا قَوْمَ سَوْءٍ
فَأَغْرَقْنَاهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ)

(who denied Our Ayat. Verily, they were a people given to evil. So We drowned them all.)
meaning, Allah drowned them all, and not one of them was left on the face of the earth, as
their Prophet had prayed would happen to them.

(وَدَاوُدَ وَسُلَيْمَانَ إِذْ يَحْكُمَانِ فِي الْحَرْثِ إِذْ
نَفَسَتْ فِيهِ غَنَمُ الْقَوْمِ وَكُنَّا لِحُكْمِهِمْ شَاهِدِينَ)

(فَفَهَّمْنَاهَا سُلَيْمَانَ وَكُلًّا ءَاتَيْنَا حُكْمًا وَعِلْمًا
وَسَخَّرْنَا مَعَ دَاوُدَ الْجِبَالَ يُسَبِّحْنَ وَالطَّيْرَ وَكُنَّا
فَاعِلِينَ - وَعَلَّمْنَاهُ صَنْعَةَ لَبُوسٍ لَكُمْ لِتُحْصِنَكُمْ
مِّنْ بَأْسِكُمْ فَهَلْ أَنْتُمْ شَاكِرُونَ - وَلِسُلَيْمَانَ الرِّيحَ
عَاصِفَةً تَجْرِي بِأَمْرِهِ إِلَى الْأَرْضِ الَّتِي بَارَكْنَا
فِيهَا وَكُنَّا بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمِينَ - وَمِنَ الشَّيَاطِينِ
مَنْ يَغُوصُونَ لَهُ وَيَعْمَلُونَ عَمَلًا دُونَ ذَلِكَ وَكُنَّا
لَهُمْ حَافِظِينَ)

(78. And (remember) Dawud and Sulayman, when they gave judgement in the case of the field
in which the sheep of certain people had Nafashat; and We were witness to their judgement.)

(79. And We made Sulayman to understand (the case); and to each of them We gave wisdom
(Hukm) and knowledge. And We subjected the mountains and the birds to glorify Our praises
along with Dawud. And it was We Who were the doer (of all these things).) (80. And We taught
him the making of metal coats of mail (for battles), to protect you in your fighting. Are you
then grateful) (81. And to Sulayman (We subjected) the wind strongly raging, running by his
command towards the land which We had blessed. And of everything We are the All-Knower.)
(82. And of the Shayatin were some who dived for him, and did other work besides that; and it
was We Who guarded them.)

Dawud and Sulayman and the Signs which They were given; the Story of the People whose Sheep pastured at Night in the Field

)Abu(Ishaq narrated from Murrah from Ibn Mas`ud: "That crop was grapes, bunches of which were dangling." This was also the view of Shurayh. Ibn `Abbas said: "Nafash means grazing." Shurayh, Az-Zuhri and Qatadah said: "Nafash only happens at night." Qatadah added, ")and(Al-Haml is grazing during the day."

وَدَاوُودَ وَسُلَيْمَانَ إِذْ يَحْكُمَانِ فِي الْحَرْثِ إِذْ
نَفَسَتْ فِيهِ غَنَمُ الْقَوْمِ

(And (remember) Dawud and Sulayman, when they gave judgement in the case of the field in which the sheep of certain people had pastured at night;) Ibn Jarir recorded that Ibn Mas`ud said: "Grapes which had grown and their bunches were spoiled by the sheep. Dawud (David) ruled that the owner of the grapes should keep the sheep. Sulayman (Solomon) said, `Not like this, O Prophet of Allah!')Dawud(said, `How then')Sulayman(said: `Give the grapes to the owner of the sheep and let him tend them until they grow back as they were, and give the sheep to the owner of the grapes and let him benefit from them until the grapes have grown back as they were. Then the grapes should be given back to their owner, and the sheep should be given back to their owner.' This is what Allah said:

فَفَهَّمْنَاهَا سُلَيْمَانَ

(And We made Sulayman to understand (the case).)" This was also reported by Al-`Awfi from Ibn `Abbas.

فَفَهَّمْنَاهَا سُلَيْمَانَ وَكُلًّا ءَاتَيْنَا حُكْمًا وَعِلْمًا

(And We made Sulayman to understand (the case); and to each of them We gave wisdom and knowledge.) Ibn Abi Hatim recorded that when Iyas bin Mu`awiyah was appointed as a judge, Al-Hasan came to him and found Iyas weeping.)Al-Hasan(said, "Why are you weeping")Iyas(said, "O Abu Sa`id, What I heard about judges among them a judge is he, who studies a case and his judgment is wrong, so he will go to Hell; another judge is he who is biased because of his own whims and desires, so he will go to Hell; and the other judge he who studies a case and gives the right judgement, so he will go to Paradise." Al-Hasan Al-Basari said: "But what Allah tells us about Dawud and Sulayman (peace be upon them both) and the Prophets and whatever judgements they made proves that what these people said is wrong. Allah says:

وَدَاوُودَ وَسُلَيْمَانَ إِذْ يَحْكُمَانِ فِي الْحَرْثِ إِذْ
نَفَسَتْ فِيهِ غَنَمُ الْقَوْمِ وَكُنَّا لِحُكْمِهِمْ شَاهِدِينَ

(And (remember) Dawud and Sulayman, when they gave judgement in the case of the field in which the sheep of certain people had pastured at night; and We were witness to their judgement.) Allah praised Sulayman but He did not condemn Dawud." Then he -- Al-Hasan --

said, "Allah enjoins three things upon the judges: not to sell thereby for some miserable price; not to follow their own whims and desires; and not to fear anyone concerning their judgements. " Then he recited:

يَدَاوُدُ إِنَّا جَعَلْنَاكَ خَلِيفَةً فِي الْأَرْضِ فَاحْكُم بَيْنَ النَّاسِ بِالْحَقِّ وَلَا تَتَّبِعِ الْهَوَى فَيُضِلَّكَ عَنْ سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ)

(O Dawud! Verily, We have placed you as a successor on the earth; so judge you between men in truth and follow not your desire -- for it will mislead you from the path of Allah.))38:26(

فَلَا تَخْشَوُا النَّاسَ وَاخْشَوْنِ)

(Therefore fear not men but fear Me))5:44(

وَلَا تَشْتَرُوا بِآيَاتِي ثَمَنًا قَلِيلًا)

(and sell not My Ayat for a miserable price.))5:44(I say: with regard to the Prophets (peace be upon them all), all of them were infallible and supported by Allah. With regard to others, it is recorded in Sahih Al-Bukhari from `Amir bin Al-`As that the Messenger of Allah said:

«إِذَا اجْتَهَدَ الْحَاكِمُ فَأَصَابَ، فَلَهُ أَجْرَانِ، وَإِذَا اجْتَهَدَ فَأَخْطَأَ، فَلَهُ أَجْرٌ»

(If the judge does his best, studies the case and reaches the right conclusion, he will have two rewards. If he does his best, studies the case and reaches the wrong conclusion, he will have one reward.) This Hadith refutes the idea of Iyas, who thought that if he did his best, studied the case and reached the wrong conclusion, he would go to Hell. And Allah knows best. Similar to story in the Qur'an is the report recorded by Imam Ahmad in his Musnad from Abu Hurayrah, who said that the Messenger of Allah said:

«بَيْنَمَا امْرَأَتَانِ مَعَهُمَا ابْنَانِ لَهُمَا، إِذْ جَاءَ الدُّبُّ فَأَخَذَ أَحَدَ الْبَيْنَيْنِ فَتَحَاكَمْتَا إِلَى دَاوُدَ، فَقَضَى بِهِ لِلْكُبْرَى، فَخَرَجْنَا فَدَعَاهُمَا سُلَيْمَانُ فَقَالَ: هَاتُوا

السَّكِينِ أَشَقُّهُ بَيْنَكُمَا: فَقَالَتِ الصُّغْرَى: يَرْحَمُكَ
اللَّهُ هُوَ ابْنُهَا لَا تَشُقُّهُ، فَقَضَى بِهِ لِلصُّغْرَى»

(There were two women who each had a son. The wolf came and took one of the children, and they referred their dispute to Dawud. He ruled that the (remaining) child belonged to the older woman. They left, then Sulayman called them and said, "Give me a sword and I will divide him between the two of you." The younger woman said, "May Allah have mercy on you! He is her child, do not cut him up!" So he ruled that the child belonged to the younger woman). This was also recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim in their Sahihs. An-Nasa'i also devoted a chapter to this in the Book of Judgements.

(وَسَخَّرْنَا مَعَ دَاوُودَ الْجِبَالَ يُسَبِّحْنَ وَالطَّيْرَ)

(And We subjected the mountains and the birds to glorify Our praises along with Dawud.) This refers to the beauty of his voice when he recited his Book, Az-Zabur. When he recited it in a beautiful manner, the birds would stop and hover in the air, and would repeat after him, and the mountains would respond and echo his words. The Prophet passed by Abu Musa Al-Ash'ari while he was reciting Qur'an at night, and he had a very beautiful voice, he stopped and listened to his recitation, and said:

«لَقَدْ أُوتِيَ هَذَا مِزْمَارًا مِنْ مَزَامِيرِ آلِ دَاوُدَ»

(This man has been given one of the wind instruments (nice voices) of the family of Dawud.) He said: "O Messenger of Allah, if I had known that you were listening, I would have done my best for you."

(وَعَلَّمْنَاهُ صَنْعَةَ لَبُوسٍ لَكُمْ لِتُحْصِنَكُمْ مِنْ
بَأْسِكُمْ)

(And We taught him the making of metal coats of mail, to protect you in your fighting.) meaning, the manufacture of chain-armor. Qatadah said that before that, they used to wear plated armor; he was the first one to make rings of chain-armor. This is like the Ayah:

(وَأَلْنَا لَهُ الْحَدِيدَ أَنْ أَعْمَلَ سَبِغَاتٍ وَقَدَّرَ فِي
السَّرْدِ)

(And We made the iron soft for him. Saying: "Make you perfect coats of mail, and balance well the rings of chain armor."))34:10-11(, meaning, do not make the pegs so loose that the rings (of chain mail) will shake, or make it so tight that they will not be able to move at all. Allah says:

(لِيُحَصِّنَكُمْ مِّنْ بِأَسِيكُمْ)

(to protect you in your fighting.) meaning, in your battles.

(فَهَلْ أَنْتُمْ شَاكِرُونَ)

(Are you then grateful) means, `Allah blessed you when He inspired His servant Dawud and taught him that for your sake.'

The Power of Sulayman is unparalleled

(وَأَسْلَمْنَا الرِّيحَ عَاصِفَةً)

(And to Sulayman (We subjected) the wind strongly raging,) means, `We subjugated the strong wind to Sulayman.'

(تَجْرِي بِأَمْرِهِ إِلَى الْأَرْضِ الَّتِي بَارَكْنَا فِيهَا)

(running by his command towards the land which We had blessed.) meaning, the land of Ash-Sham (Greater Syria).

(وَكُنَّا بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمِينَ)

(And of everything We are the All-Knower.) He had a mat made of wood on which he would place all the equipment of his kingship; horses, camels, tents and troops, then he would command the wind to carry it, and he would go underneath it and it would carry him aloft, shading him and protecting him from the heat, until it reached wherever he wanted to go in the land. Then it would come down and deposit his equipment and entourage. Allah says:

(فَسَخَّرْنَا لَهُ الرِّيحَ تَجْرِي بِأَمْرِهِ رُخَاءً حَيْثُ أَصَابَ)

(So, We subjected to him the wind; it blew gently by his order whithersoever he willed.)
38:36

(عُدُّوْهَا شَهْرٌ وَرَوَاحُهَا شَهْرٌ)

(its morning was a month's (journey), and its afternoon was a month's) 34:12

(وَمِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ مَنْ يَغْوُونَ لَهُ)

(And of the Shayatin were some who dived for him,) means, they dived into the water to retrieve pearls, jewels, etc., for him.

(وَيَعْمَلُونَ عَمَلًا دُونَ ذَلِكَ)

(and did other work besides that;) This is like the Ayah:

(وَالشَّيْطَانِ كُلِّ بَنَاءٍ وَغَوَّاصٍ - وَءَاخِرِينَ
مُقَرَّنِينَ فِي الْأَصْفَادِ)

(And also the Shayatin, every kind of builder and diver. And also others bound in fetters.)
)38:37-38(.

(وَكُنَّا لَهُمْ حَافِظِينَ)

(and it was We Who guarded them.) means, Allah protected him lest any of these Shayatin did him any harm. All of them were subject to his control and domination, and none of them would have dared to approach him. He was in charge of them and if he wanted, he could set free or detain whomever among them he wished. Allah says:

(وَأَخْرَجْنَا مَقْرَّنِينَ فِي الْأَصْفَادِ)

(And also others bound in fetters.))38:38(

(وَأَيُّوبَ إِذْ نَادَى رَبَّهُ أَنِّي مَسَّنِيَ الضُّرُّ وَأَنْتَ
أَرْحَمُ الرَّاحِمِينَ - فَاسْتَجَبْنَا لَهُ فَكَشَفْنَا مَا بِهِ مِنْ
ضُرٍّ وَعَآتَيْنَاهُ أَهْلَهُ وَمِثْلَهُمْ مَعَهُمْ رَحْمَةً مِّنْ
عِنْدِنَا وَذَكَرَى لِلْعَبِيدِينَ)

(83. And (remember) Ayyub, when he cried to his Lord: "Verily, distress has seized me, and You are the Most Merciful of all those who show mercy.") (84. So We answered his call, and We removed the distress that was on him, and We restored his family to him, and the like thereof along with them as a mercy from Ourselves and a Reminder for all those who worship Us.)

The Prophet Ayyub Allah tells us about Ayyub (Job), and the trials that struck him, affecting his wealth, children and physical health.

He had plenty of livestock, cattle and crops, many children and beautiful houses, and he was tested in these things, losing every thing he had. Then he was tested with regard to his body, and he was left alone on the edge of the city and there was no one who treated him with compassion apart from his wife, who took care of him. It was said that it reached the stage where she was in need, so she started to serve people (to earn money) for his sake. The Prophet said:

«أَشَدُّ النَّاسِ بَلَاءَ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ، ثُمَّ الصَّالِحُونَ، ثُمَّ الْأَمْثَلُ فَأَلْأَمْثَلُ»

(The people who are tested the most severely are the Prophets, then the righteous, then the next best and the next best). According to another Hadith:

«يُبْتَلَى الرَّجُلُ عَلَى قَدْرِ دِينِهِ، فَإِنْ كَانَ فِي دِينِهِ صَلَابَةٌ زِيدَ فِي بَلَائِهِ»

(A man will be tested according to his level of religious commitment; the stronger his religious commitment, the more severe will be his test.) The Prophet of Allah, Ayyub, upon him be peace, had the utmost patience, and he is the best example of that. Yazid bin Maysarah said: "When Allah tested Ayyub, upon him be peace, with the loss of his family, wealth and children, and he had nothing left, he started to focus upon the remembrance of Allah, and he said: `I praise You, the Lord of lords, Who bestowed His kindness upon me and gave me wealth and children, and there was no corner of my heart that was not filled with attachment to these worldly things, then You took all of that away from me and You emptied my heart, and there is nothing to stand between me and You. If my enemy Iblis knew of this, he would be jealous of me. ' When Iblis heard of this, he became upset. And Ayyub, upon him be peace, said: `O Lord, You gave me wealth and children, and there was no one standing at my door complaining of some wrong I had done to him. You know that. I used to have a bed prepared for me, but I forsook it and said to myself: You were not created to lie on a comfortable bed. I only forsook that for Your sake.'" This was recorded by Ibn Abi Hatim. Ibn Abi Hatim recorded from Abu Hurayrah that the Prophet said:

«لَمَّا عَافَى اللَّهُ أَيُّوبَ أَمْطَرَ عَلَيْهِ جَرَادًا مِنْ ذَهَبٍ، فَجَعَلَ يَأْخُذُ مِنْهُ بِيَدِهِ وَيَجْعَلُهُ فِي تَوْبِهِ، قَالَ: فَقِيلَ لَهُ: يَا أَيُّوبُ أَمَا تَشْبَعُ؟ قَالَ: يَا رَبِّ وَمَنْ يَشْبَعُ مِنْ رَحْمَتِكَ»

(When Allah healed Ayyub, He sent upon him a shower of golden locusts, and he started to pick them up and gather them in his garment. It was said to him, "O Ayyub, have you not had enough" He said, "O Lord, who can ever have enough of Your mercy) The basis of this Hadith is recorded in the Two Sahihs, as we shall see below.

(وَأَتَيْنَاهُ أَهْلَهُ وَمِثْلَهُمْ مَعَهُمْ)

(and We restored his family to him (that he had lost) and the like thereof along with them) It was reported that Ibn `Abbas said: "They themselves were restored to him." This was also narrated by Al-`Awfi from Ibn `Abbas. Something similar was also narrated from Ibn Mas`ud and Mujahid, and this was the view of Al-Hasan and Qatadah. Mujahid said: "It was said to him, `O Ayyub, your family will be with you in Paradise; if you want, We will bring them back to you, or if you want, We will leave them for you in Paradise and will compensate you with others like them.' He said, `No, leave them for me in Paradise.' So they were left for him in Paradise, and he was compensated with others like them in this world."

(رَحْمَةً مِّنْ عِنْدِنَا)

(as a mercy from Ourselves) means, `We did that to him as a mercy from Allah towards him.'

(وَذِكْرَىٰ لِّلْعَبِيدِ)

(and a Reminder for all those who worship Us.) means, `We made him an example lest those who are beset by trials think that We do that to them because We do not care for them, so that they may take him as an example of patience in accepting the decrees of Allah and bearing the trials with which He tests His servants as He wills.' And Allah has the utmost wisdom with regard to that.

(وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِدْرِيسَ وَذَا الْكِفْلِ كُلٌّ مِّنَ
الصَّابِرِينَ - وَأَدْخَلْنَاهُمْ فِي رَحْمَتِنَا إِنَّهُمْ مِّنَ
الصَّالِحِينَ)

(85. And (remember) Isma`il, Idris and Dhul-Kifl: All were from among the patient.) (86. And We admitted them to Our mercy. Verily, they were of the righteous.) Isma`il, Idris and Dhul-Kifl Isma`il was the son of Ibrahim Al-Khalil, peace be upon them both. He has already been mentioned in Surah Maryam, where mention was also made of Idris. From the context and the fact that Dhul-Kifl is mentioned alongside Prophets, it appears that he was also a Prophet. Others say that he was a righteous man, a just king and a fair judge. Ibn Jarir refrained from making any decisive comment. And Allah knows best.

(وَدَا النُّونَ إِذْ ذَهَبَ مُغَضِبًا فَظَنَّ أَنْ لَنْ نَقْدِرَ
 عَلَيْهِ فَنَادَى فِي الظُّلُمَاتِ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ
 سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ - فَاسْتَجَبْنَا لَهُ
 وَنَجَّيْنَاهُ مِنَ الْغَمِّ وَكَذَلِكَ نُنَجِّي الْمُؤْمِنِينَ)

(87. And (remember) Dhun-Nun, when he went off in anger, and imagined that We shall not punish him! But he cried through the darknesses (Zulumat) (saying): "There is no God but You, Glorified be You! Truly, I have been of the Zalimin wrongdoers.") (88. So We answered his call, and delivered him from the distress. And thus We do deliver the believers.)

Yunus

This story is mentioned here, and in Surat As-Saffat and Surah Nun. Yunus bin Matta, upon him be peace, was sent by Allah to the people of Nineveh, which was a town in the area of Mawsil)in northern Iraq(. He called them to Allah, but they rejected him and persisted in their disbelief. So he left them in anger, threatening them with punishment after three)days(. When they realized that he was telling the truth and that a Prophet never lies, they went out to the desert with their children and cattle and flocks. They separated the mothers from their children, then they beseeched Allah and pleaded to Him, with the camels and their young groaning, the cows and their calves mooing, and the sheep and their lambs bleating, so Allah spared them from the punishment. Allah says:

(قُلُوبًا كَانَتْ قَرْيَةً ءَامَنَتْ فَنَفَعَهَا ءِيمَانُهَا إِلَّا قَوْمَ
 يُونُسَ لَمَّا ءَامَنُوا كَشَفْنَا عَنْهُمْ ءَذَابَ الْخِزْيِ فِي
 الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَمَتَّعْنَاهُمْ إِلَىٰ حِينٍ)

(Was there any town that believed (after seeing the punishment), and its faith saved it Except the people of Yunus; when they believed, We removed from them the torment of disgrace in the life of the world, and permitted them to enjoy for a while))10:98(. Yunus, meanwhile, went and traveled with some people on a ship, which was tossed about on the sea. The people were afraid that they would drown, so they cast lots to choose a man whom they would throw overboard. The lot fell to Yunus, but they refused to throw him overboard. This happened a second and a third time. Allah says:

(فَسَاهَمَ فَكَانَ مِنَ الْمُدْحَضِينَ)

(Then he (agreed to) cast lots, and he was among the losers.))37:141(meaning, the draw went against him, so Yunus stood up, removed his garment and cast himself into the sea. Then Allah sent from the Green Sea -- according to what Ibn Mas' ud said -- a large fish which cleaved the oceans until it came and swallowed Yunus when he threw himself into the sea. Allah inspired

that large fish not to devour his flesh or break his bones, (as if He said) Yunus is not food for you, rather your belly is a prison for him.

(وَدَا التُّون)

(And (remember) Dhun-Nun,) Here Nun refers to the fish; it is correct for it to be attributed to him here.

(إِذْ ذَهَبَ مُغَضِبًا)

(when he went off in anger,) Ad-Dahhak said: "Anger towards his people."

(فَظَنَّ أَنْ لَنْ نَقْدِرَ عَلَيْهِ)

(and imagined that We shall not punish him!) meaning, constrict him in the belly of the fish. Something similar to this was reported from Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid, Ad-Dahhak and others. This was the view favored by Ibn Jarir, and he quoted as evidence for that the Ayah:

(وَمَنْ قَدِرَ عَلَيْهِ رِزْقُهُ فَلْيُنْفِقْ مِمَّا آتَاهُ اللَّهُ لَا يُكَلِّفُ اللَّهُ نَفْسًا إِلَّا مَا آتَاهَا سَيَجْعَلُ اللَّهُ بَعْدَ عُسْرٍ يُسْرًا)

(and the man whose resources are restricted, let him spend according to what Allah has given him. Allah puts no burden on any person beyond what He has given him. Allah will grant after hardship, ease))65:7(.

(فَنَادَى فِي الظُّلُمَاتِ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ
إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ)

(But he cried through the depths of darkness (saying): "There is no God but You, Glorified be You! Truly, I have been of the wrongdoers.") Ibn Mas`ud said regarding the `depths of darkness': "The darkness of the belly of the fish, the darkness of the sea and the darkness of the night." This was also narrated from Ibn `Abbas, `Amr bin Maymun, Sa`id bin Jubayr, Muhammad bin Ka`b, Ad-Dahhak, Al-Hasan and Qatadah. Salim bin Abu Al-Ja`d said: "The darkness of the fish in the belly of another fish in the darkness of the sea." Ibn Mas`ud, Ibn `Abbas and others said: "This was because the fish took him through the sea, cleaving it until it reached the bottom of the sea. Yunus heard the rocks at the bottom of the sea uttering glorification of Allah, at which point he said:

(لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ)

(There is no God but You, Glorified be You! Truly, I have been of the wrongdoers)" `Awf Al-A`rabi said: "When Yunus found himself in the belly of the fish, he thought that he had died. Then he moved his legs. When he moved his legs, he prostrated where he was, then he called out: `O Lord, I have taken a place of worship to You in a place which no other person has reached."

(فَاسْتَجَبْنَا لَهُ وَنَجَّيْنَاهُ مِنَ الْغَمِّ)

(So `We answered his call, and delivered him from the distress.) means, `We brought him forth from the belly of the fish and from that darkness.'

(وَكَذَلِكَ نُنْجِي الْمُؤْمِنِينَ)

(And thus We do deliver the believers.) means, when they are in difficulty and they call upon Us and repent to Us, especially if they call upon Us with these words at the time of distress. The leader of the Prophets encouraged us to call upon Allah with these words. Imam Ahmad recorded that Sa`d bin Abi Waqqas, may Allah be pleased with him, said: "I passed by `Uthman bin `Affan, may Allah be pleased with him, in the Masjid, and greeted him. He stared at me but did not return my Salam. I went to `Umar bin Al-Khattab and said: `O Commander of the faithful, has something happened in Islam' I said that twice. He said, `No, why do you ask' I said, `I passed by `Uthman a short while ago in the Masjid and greeted him, and he stared at me but he did not return my Salam.' `Umar sent for `Uthman and asked him, `Why did you not return your brother's Salam' He said, `That is not true.' Sa`d said, `Yes it is.' It reached the point where they both swore oaths. Then `Uthman remembered and said, `Yes, you are right, I seek the forgiveness of Allah and I repent to Him. You passed by me a short while ago but I was preoccupied with thoughts of something I had heard from the Messenger of Allah , which I never think of but a veil comes down over my eyes and my heart.' Sa`d said: `And I will tell you what it was. The Messenger of Allah told us the first part of the supplication then a bedouin came and kept him busy, then the Messenger of Allah got up and I followed him. When I felt worried that he would enter his house, I stamped my feet. I turned to the Messenger of Allah , who said,

«مَنْ هَذَا، أَبُو إِسْحَاقَ؟»

(Who is this Abu Ishaq) I said, "Yes, O Messenger of Allah." He said,

«فَمَهْ»

(What is the matter) I said, "Nothing, by Allah, except that you told us the first part of the supplication, then this bedouin came and kept you busy." He said,

«نَعَمْ دَعْوَةُ ذِي النَّوْنِ إِذْ هُوَ فِي بَطْنِ الْحُوتِ»

(Yes, the supplication of Dhun-Nun when he was in the belly of the fish:

(لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ)

(There is no God but You, Glorified be You! Truly, I have been of the wrongdoers.)

فَإِنَّهُ لَمْ يَدْعُ بِهَا مُسْلِمٌ رَبَّهُ فِي شَيْءٍ قَطُّ إِلَّا
اسْتَجَابَ لَهُ»

No Muslim ever prays to his Lord with these words for anything, but He will answer his prayer.)" It was also recorded by At-Tirmidhi, and by An-Nasa'i in Al-Yawm wal-Laylah. Ibn Abi Hatim recorded that Sa`d said that the Messenger of Allah said:

«مَنْ دَعَا بِدُعَاءِ يُونُسَ اسْتُجِيبَ لَهُ»

(Whoever offers supplication in the words of the supplication of Yunus, will be answered.) Abu Sa`id said: "He was referring to:

(وَكَذَلِكَ نُنْجِي الْمُؤْمِنِينَ)

(And thus We do deliver the believers.)"

(وَزَكَرِيَّا إِذْ نَادَى رَبَّهُ رَبِّ لَا تَذَرْنِي فَرْدًا وَأَنْتَ
خَيْرُ الْوَارِثِينَ - فَاسْتَجَبْنَا لَهُ وَوَهَبْنَا لَهُ يَحْيَى
وَأَصْلَحْنَا لَهُ زَوْجَهُ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا يُسَارِعُونَ فِي
الْخَيْرَاتِ وَيَدْعُونَنَا رَغَبًا وَرَهَبًا وَكَانُوا لَنَا
خَشِعِينَ)

(89. And (remember) Zakariyya, when he cried to his Lord: "O My Lord! Leave me not single (childless), though You are the Best of the inheritors.") (90. So We answered his call, and We bestowed upon him Yahya, and cured his wife for him. Verily, they used to hasten on to do good deeds, and they used to call on Us with hope and fear, and they were Khashi` in before Us.)

Zakariyya and Yahya

Allah tells us of His servant Zakariyya, who asked Allah to grant him a son who would be a Prophet after him. The story has already been given in detail at the beginning of Surah Maryam and also in Surah `Imran. Here an abbreviated version is given.

(إِذْ نَادَى رَبَّهُ)

(when he cried to his Lord) means, in secret, hiding it from his people.

(رَبِّ لَا تَذَرْنِي فَرْدًا)

(O My Lord! Leave me not single,) means, with no child and no heir to stand among the people after me.

(وَأَنْتَ خَيْرُ الْوَارِثِينَ)

(though You are the Best of the inheritors.) This is a supplication and form of praise befitting the topic. Allah says:

(فَاسْتَجَبْنَا لَهُ وَوَهَبْنَا لَهُ يَحْيَىٰ وَأَصْلَحْنَا لَهُ
زَوْجَهُ)

(So We answered his call, and We bestowed upon him Yahya, and cured his wife for him.) Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid and Sa`id bin Jubayr said: "She was barren and never had a child, then she gave birth."

(إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا يُسَارِعُونَ فِي الْخَيْرَاتِ)

(Verily, they used to hasten on to do good deeds,) means, acts of worship and acts of obedience towards Allah.

(وَيَدْعُونَنَا رَغَبًا وَرَهَبًا)

(and they used to call on Us with hope and fear,) Ath-Thawri said, "Hoping for that (reward) which is with Us and fearing that (punishment) which is with Us."

(وَكَانُوا لَنَا خَشِعِينَ)

(and they were Khashi`in before Us.) `Ali bin Abi Talhah reported from Ibn `Abbas that this means, sincerely believing in that which was revealed by Allah. Mujahid said: "Truly believing." Abu Al-`Aliyah said: "Fearing." Abu Snan said: "Khushu` means the fear which should never leave our hearts." It was also reported from Mujahid that the Khashi`in are those who are

humble." Al-Hasan, Qatadah and Ad-Dahhak said, "The Khashi`in are those who humble themselves before Allah." All of these suggestions are close in meaning.

(وَالَّتِي أَحْصَنَتْ فَرْجَهَا فَنَفَخْنَا فِيهَا مِنْ رُوحِنَا
وَجَعَلْنَاهَا وَابْنَهَا ءَايَةً لِلْعَالَمِينَ)

(91. And she who guarded her chastity, We breathed into her through Our Ruh, and We made her and her son a sign for nations.)

Isa and Maryam the True Believer

Here Allah mentions the story of Maryam and her son `Isa, just after mentioning Zakariyya and his son Yahya, may peace be upon them all. He mentions the story of Zakariyya first, followed by the story of Maryam because the one is connected to the other. The former is the story of a child being born to an old man of advanced years, from an old woman who had been barren and had never given birth when she was younger. Then Allah mentions the story of Maryam which is even more wondrous, for in this case a child was born from a female without (the involvement of) a male. These stories also appear in Surah Al `Imran and in Surah Maryam. Here Allah mentions the story of Zakariyya and follows it with the story of Maryam, where He says:

(وَالَّتِي أَحْصَنَتْ فَرْجَهَا)

(And she who guarded her chastity,) means, Maryam (peace be upon her). This is like the Ayah in Surah At-Tahrim:

(وَمَرْيَمَ ابْنَةَ عِمْرَانَ الَّتِي أَحْصَنَتْ فَرْجَهَا
فَنَفَخْنَا فِيهِ مِنْ رُوحِنَا)

(And Maryam, the daughter of `Imran who guarded her chastity. And We breathed into it)her garment(through Our Ruh))66:12(.

(وَجَعَلْنَاهَا وَابْنَهَا ءَايَةً لِلْعَالَمِينَ)

(and We made her and her son a sign for the nations.) means, evidence that Allah is able to do all things and that He creates whatever He wills; verily, His command, when He intends a thing, is only that He says to it, "Be" -- and it is! This is like the Ayah:

(وَلِنَجْعَلَهُ ءَايَةً لِلنَّاسِ)

(And (We wish) to appoint him as a sign to mankind))19:21(

(إِنَّ هَذِهِ أُمَّتُكُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً وَأَنَا رَبُّكُمْ فَاعْبُدُون -
وَتَقَطَّعُوا أَمْرَهُمْ بَيْنَهُمْ كُلُّ إِلَيْنَا رَاجِعُونَ - فَمَنْ
يَعْمَلْ مِنْ الصَّالِحَاتِ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَلَا كُفْرَانَ
لِسَعْيِهِ وَإِنَّا لَهُ كَاتِبُونَ)

(92. Truly, this, your Ummah is one, and I am your Lord, therefore worship Me.) (93. But they have broken up and differed in their religion among themselves. (And) they all shall return to Us.) (94. So whoever does righteous good deeds while he is a believer, his efforts will not be rejected. Verily, We record it for him (in his Book of deeds).)

Mankind is One Ummah

(إِنَّ هَذِهِ أُمَّتُكُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً)

(Truly, this, your Ummah is one,) Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid, Sa`id bin Jubayr, Qatadah and `Abdur-Rahman bin Zayd bin Aslam said, "Your religion is one religion." Al-Hasan Al-Basri said: "In this Ayah, Allah explains to them what they should avoid and what they should do." Then He said:

(إِنَّ هَذِهِ أُمَّتُكُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً)

(Truly, this, your Ummah is one religion,) "Meaning, your path is one path. Certainly this is your Shari`ah (Divine Law) which I have clearly explained you." So Allah says:

(وَأَنَا رَبُّكُمْ فَاعْبُدُون)

(and I am your Lord, therefore worship Me.) This is like the Ayah:

(يَأَيُّهَا الرُّسُلُ كُلُّوا مِنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَاعْمَلُوا
صَالِحًا)

(O (you) Messengers! Eat of the Tayyibat (good things) and do righteous deeds.) Until His saying,

(وَأَنَا رَبُّكُمْ فَاتَّقُون)

(And I am your Lord, so have Taqwa of Me.))23:51-52(The Messenger of Allah said:

«نَحْنُ مَعَاشِرَ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ أَوْلَادُ عِلَّاتٍ دِينُنَا وَاحِدٌ»

(We Prophets are brothers from different mothers and our religion is one.) What is meant here is that they all worshipped Allah Alone with no partner or associate, although the Laws of each Messenger may have differed, as Allah says:

(لِكُلِّ جَعَلْنَا مِنْكُمْ شِرْعَةً وَمِنْهَاجًا)

(To each among you, We have prescribed a Law and a clear way))5:48(

(وَتَقَطَّعُوا أَمْرَهُمْ بَيْنَهُمْ)

(But they have broken up and differed in their religion among themselves.) meaning, the nations were divided over their Messengers; some of them believed in them and some rejected them. Allah says:

(كُلُّ الْيَنَّا رَجِعُونَ)

((And) they all shall return to Us.) meaning, `on the Day of Resurrection, when We will requite each person according to his deeds. If they are good, then he will be rewarded and if they are evil then he will be punished.' Allah says:

(فَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِنَ الصَّالِحَاتِ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ)

(So whoever does righteous good deeds while he is a believer,) meaning, his heart believes and his deeds are righteous.

(فَلَا كُفْرَانَ لِسَعْيِهِ)

(his efforts will not be rejected.) This is like the Ayah:

(إِنَّا لَا نُضِيعُ أَجْرَ مَنْ أَحْسَنَ عَمَلًا)

(certainly We shall not make the reward of anyone who does his deeds in the most perfect manner to be lost.))18:30(which means, his efforts will not be wasted; they will be appreciated and not even a speck of dust's weight of injustice will be done. Allah says:

(وَإِنَّا لَهُ كَاتِبُونَ)

(Verily, We record it for him.) means, all his deeds are recorded and nothing of them at all is lost.

(وَحَرَامٌ عَلَى قَرْيَةٍ أَهْلَكْنَاهَا أَنَّهُمْ لَا يَرْجِعُونَ -
حَتَّىٰ إِذَا فُتِحَتْ يَأْجُوجُ وَمَأْجُوجُ وَهُمْ مِّن كُلِّ
حَدَبٍ يَنْسِلُونَ - وَاقْتَرَبَ الْوَعْدُ الْحَقُّ فَإِذَا هِيَ
شَخِصَةٌ أَبْصَرُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُواِ يَوِيلْنَا قَدْ كُنَّا فِي
غَفْلَةٍ مِّنْ هَذَا بَلْ كُنَّا ظَالِمِينَ)

(95. And a ban is laid on every town which We have destroyed that they shall not return.) (96. Until, when Ya'juj and Ma'juj (Gog and Magog people) are let loose, and they swoop down from every Hadab.) (97. And the true promise shall draw near. Then, you shall see the eyes of the disbelievers fixedly staring in horror. (They will say:) "Woe to us! We were indeed heedless of this -- nay, but we were wrongdoers.")

Those who have been destroyed, will never return to this World.

(وَحَرَامٌ عَلَى قَرْيَةٍ)

(And a ban is laid on every town) Ibn `Abbas said, "it is enforced", i.e., it has been decreed that the people of each township that has been destroyed will never return to this world before the Day of Resurrection, as is reported clearly)through other narrations(from Ibn `Abbas, Abu Ja`far Al-Baqir, Qatadah and others.

Ya'juj and Ma'juj

(حَتَّىٰ إِذَا فُتِحَتْ يَأْجُوجُ وَمَأْجُوجُ)

(Until, when Ya`juj and Ma`juj are let loose,) We have already mentioned that they are from the progeny of Adam, upon him be peace; they are also descents of Nuh through his son Yafith (Japheth), who was the father of the Turks, Turk referring to the group of them who were left behind the barrier which was built by Dhul-Qarnayn. Allah says:

(هَذَا رَحْمَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّي فَإِذَا جَاءَ وَعَدُ رَبِّي جَعَلَهُ
دَكَّاءَ وَكَانَ وَعْدُ رَبِّي حَقًّا وَتَرَكَنَا بَعْضَهُمْ يَوْمَئِذٍ
يَمُوجٌ فِي بَعْضٍ)

(This is a mercy from my Lord, but when the promise of my Lord comes, He shall level it down to the ground. And the promise of my Lord is ever true. And on that Day, We shall leave them to surge like waves on one another...)18:98-99(. And in this Ayah, Allah says:

(حَتَّىٰ إِذَا فُتِحَتْ يَأْجُوجُ وَمَأْجُوجُ وَهُمْ مِّن كُلِّ
حَدَبٍ يَنْسِلُونَ)

(Until, when Ya`juj and Ma`juj are let loose, and they swoop down from every Hadab.) meaning, they will come forth quickly to spread corruption. A Hadab is a raised portion of land. This was the view of Ibn `Abbas, `Ikrimah, Abu Salih, Ath-Thawri and others. This is how their emergence is described, as if the listener can see it.

(وَلَا يُنَبِّئُكَ مِثْلُ خَبِيرٍ)

(And none can inform you like Him Who is the All-Knower.))35:14(. This is information given by the One Who knows what has happened and what is yet to come, the One Who knows the unseen in the heavens and on earth. There is no god except Him. Ibn Jarir narrated that `Ubaydullah bin Abi Yazid said, "Ibn `Abbas saw some young boys playing and pouncing on one another, and said, this is how Ya'juj and Ma'juj will emerge." Their emergence has been described in numerous Hadiths of the Prophet . The First Hadith Imam Ahmad recorded that Abu Sa`id Al-Khudri said: "I heard the Messenger of Allah say:

«تُفْتَحُ يَأْجُوجُ وَمَأْجُوجُ، فَيَخْرُجُونَ عَلَى النَّاسِ،
كَمَا قَالَ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ:

(وَهُمْ مِّن كُلِّ حَدَبٍ يَنْسِلُونَ)

فَيَعْشَوْنَ النَّاسَ وَيَحَازُ الْمُسْلِمُونَ عَنْهُمْ إِلَى
مَدَائِنِهِمْ وَحُصُونِهِمْ، وَيَضُمُّونَ إِلَيْهِمْ مَوَاشِيَهُمْ،

وَيَشْرَبُونَ مِيَاهَ الْأَرْضِ، حَتَّىٰ إِنَّا بَعْضَهُم لَيَمُرُّ
بِالنَّهْرِ فَيَشْرَبُونَ مَا فِيهِ حَتَّىٰ يَبْرُكُوهُ يَا بَسِئًا،
حَتَّىٰ إِنَّا مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ لَيَمُرُّ بِذَلِكَ النَّهْرِ فَيَقُولُ: قَدْ
كَانَ هَهُنَا مَاءٌ مَرَّةً، حَتَّىٰ إِذَا لَمْ يَبْقَ مِنَ النَّاسِ
أَحَدٌ إِلَّا أَحَدٌ فِي حِصْنٍ أَوْ مَدِينَةٍ، قَالَ قَائِلُهُمْ:
هَؤُلَاءِ أَهْلُ الْأَرْضِ قَدْ فَرَعْنَا مِنْهُمْ بَقِيَّ أَهْلِ
السَّمَاءِ، قَالَ: ثُمَّ يَهْزُ أَحَدُهُمْ حَرْبَتَهُ، ثُمَّ يَرْمِي
بِهَا إِلَى السَّمَاءِ فَيَرْجِعُ إِلَيْهِ مُخْضَبَةً دَمًا لِلْبَلَاءِ
وَالْفِتْنَةِ، فَبَيْنَمَا هُمْ عَلَىٰ ذَلِكَ، بَعَثَ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ
دُودًا فِي أَعْنَاقِهِمْ كَنَغْفِ الْجَرَادِ الَّذِي يَخْرُجُ فِي
أَعْنَاقِهِ، فَيُصْنِحُونَ مَوْتِي لَا يُسْمَعُ لَهُمْ حِسٌّ،
فَيَقُولُ الْمُسْلِمُونَ: أَلَا رَجُلٌ يَشْرِي لَنَا نَفْسَهُ
فَيَنْظُرَ مَا فَعَلَ هَذَا الْعَدُوُّ؟ قَالَ: فَيَتَجَرَّدُ رَجُلٌ
مِنْهُمْ مُحْتَسِبًا نَفْسَهُ، قَدْ أَوْطَنَهَا عَلَىٰ أَنَّهُ مَقْتُولٌ،
فَيَنْزِلُ فَيَجِدُهُمْ مَوْتِي، بَعْضُهُمْ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ،
فَيُنَادِي: يَا مَعْشَرَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ، أَلَا أُبَشِّرُوَا إِنَّا اللَّهُ
عَزَّ وَجَلَّ قَدْ كَفَّأَكُمْ عَدُوَّكُمْ، فَيَخْرُجُونَ مِنْ
مَدَائِنِهِمْ وَحُصُونِهِمْ، وَيَسْرَحُونَ مَوَاشِيَهُمْ، فَمَا

يَكُونُ لَهُمْ رَعِيٌّ إِلَّا لِحَوْمِهِمْ، فَتَشْكُرُ عَنْهُمْ
كَأَحْسَنَ مَا شَكَرْتَ عَنْ شَيْءٍ مِنَ النَّبَاتِ أَصَابَتْهُ
قَطُّ»

(Ya'juj and Ma'juj will be let loose and will emerge upon mankind, as Allah says: (and they swoop down from every Hadab.) They will overwhelm the people, and the Muslims will retreat to their cities and strongholds, bringing their flocks with them. They)Ya'juj and Ma'juj(will drink all the water of the land until some of them will pass a river and drink it dry, then those who come after them will pass by that place and will say, "There used to be water here once." Then there will be no one left except those who are in their strongholds and cities. Then one of them will say, "We have defeated the people of the earth; now the people of heaven are left." One of them will shake his spear and hurl it into the sky, and it will come back stained with blood, as a test and a trial for them. While this is happening, Allah will send a worm in their necks, like the worm that is found in date-stones or in the nostrils of sheep, and they will die and their clamor will cease. Then the Muslims will say, "Who will volunteer to find out what the enemy is doing" One of them will step forward and volunteer, knowing that he will likely be killed. He will go down and will find them dead, lying on top of one another. Then he will call out, "O Muslims! Rejoice that Allah has sufficed you against your enemy!" Then they will come out of their cities and strongholds, and will let their flocks out to graze, but they will have nothing to graze upon except the flesh of these people (Ya'juj and Ma'juj), but it will fill them better than any vegetation they have ever eaten before.) It was also recorded by Ibn Majah. The Second Hadith Imam Ahmad also recorded from An-Nawwas bin Sam`an Al-Kilabi that the Messenger of Allah mentioned the Dajjal one morning. "Sometimes he described him as insignificant and sometimes he described him as so significant that we felt as if he were in the cluster of palm trees. He said:

«غَيْرُ الدَّجَالِ أَخْوَفُنِي عَلَيْكُمْ. فَإِنْ يَخْرُجُ وَأَنَا
فِيكُمْ، فَأَنَا حَاجِبُهُ دُونَكُمْ، وَإِنْ يَخْرُجُ وَلَسْتُ
فِيكُمْ، فَكُلُّ أَمْرٍ حَاجِبٌ نَفْسِهِ، وَاللَّهُ خَلِيفَتِي
عَلَى كُلِّ مُسْلِمٍ، وَإِنَّهُ شَابٌّ جَعْدٌ قَطَطٌ، عَيْنُهُ
طَافِيَةٌ، وَإِنَّهُ يَخْرُجُ خَلَّةً بَيْنَ الشَّامِ وَالْعِرَاقِ
فَعَاتَ يَمِينًا وَشِمَالًا، يَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ اثْبُتُوا»

(There are other things that I fear for you more than the Dajjal. If he emerges while I am among you, I will deal with him for you. If he emerges when I am not among you, then each man will have to deal with him for himself, and Allah will take care of each Muslim on my behalf. He (the Dajjal) will be a young man with short, curly hair and a floating eye. He will

emerge in a place between Syria and Iraq and will spread mischief right and left. O servants of Allah, be steadfast!) We said, `O Messenger of Allah, how long will he remain on earth' He said,

«أَرْبَعُونَ يَوْمًا، يَوْمٌ كَسَنَةِ، وَيَوْمٌ كَشَهْرٍ، يَوْمٌ كَجُمُعَةٍ، وَسَائِرُ أَيَّامِهِ كَأَيَّامِكُمْ»

(Forty days: one day like a year, one day like a month, one day like a week, and the rest of the days like your days.) We said, `O Messenger of Allah, on that day which will be like a year, will the prayers of one day and one night be sufficient' He said,

«لَا، اقْدُرُوا لَهُ قَدْرَهُ»

(No, but you will have to compute it according to its due proportion (and pray accordingly).) We said, `O Messenger of Allah, how fast will he move across the land' He said,

«كَالْغَيْثِ اسْتَدْبَرَتْهُ الرِّيحُ»

(Like a cloud driven by the wind.) He said,

«فَيَمُرُّ بِالْحَيِّ فَيَدْعُوهُمْ فَيَسْتَجِيبُونَ لَهُ، فَيَأْمُرُ السَّمَاءَ فَتُمْطِرُ، وَالْأَرْضَ فَتُنْبِتُ، وَتَرْوِحُ عَلَيْهِمْ سَارِحَتَهُمْ، وَهِيَ أَطْوَلُ مَا كَانَتْ دُرَى، وَأَمَدَهُ خَوَاصِرَ، وَأَسْبَغَهُ ضُرُوعًا، وَيَمُرُّ بِالْحَيِّ فَيَدْعُوهُمْ فَيَرُدُّونَ عَلَيْهِ قَوْلَهُ، فَتَتَّبِعُهُ أَمْوَالُهُمْ فَيُصْبِحُونَ مُمَحِّلِينَ، لَيْسَ لَهُمْ مِنْ أَمْوَالِهِمْ شَيْءٌ، وَيَمُرُّ بِالْخَرِبَةِ فَيَقُولُ لَهَا: أَخْرَجِي كُنُوزَكَ، فَتَتَّبِعُهُ كُنُوزُهَا كَيَعَاسِبِ النَّحْلُ قَالَ: وَيَأْمُرُ بِرَجُلٍ فَيُقْتَلُ، فَيَضْرِبُهُ بِالسِّيفِ فَيَقْطَعُهُ جَزَلَتَيْنِ رَمِيَّةَ الْغَرَضِ، ثُمَّ يَدْعُوهُ فَيُقْبَلُ إِلَيْهِ، يَتَهَلَّلُ

وَجْهَهُ، فَبَيْنَمَا هُمْ عَلَى ذَلِكَ، إِذْ بَعَثَ اللَّهُ عَزَّ
 وَجَلَّ الْمَسِيحَ عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ، فَيَنْزِلُ عِنْدَ
 الْمَنَارَةِ الْبَيْضَاءِ شَرْقِيَّ دِمَشْقَ بَيْنَ مَهْرُودَتَيْنِ،
 وَاضِعًا يَدَيْهِ عَلَى أَجْنِحَةِ مَلَكَيْنِ، فَيَتَّبَعُهُ فَيُدْرِكُهُ
 فَيَقْتُلُهُ عِنْدَ بَابِ لُدِّ الشَّرْقِيِّ قَالَ: فَبَيْنَمَا هُمْ كَذَلِكَ،
 إِذْ أَوْحَى اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ إِلَى عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ
 عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ أَنِّي قَدْ أَخْرَجْتُ عِبَادًا مِنْ عِبَادِي، لَأَ
 يَدَانَ لَكَ بِقِتَالِهِمْ، فَحَرِّزْ عِبَادِي إِلَى الطُّورِ،
 فَيَبْعَثُ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ يَأْجُوجَ وَمَأْجُوجَ، كَمَا قَالَ
 تَعَالَى:

(وَهُمْ مِنْ كُلِّ حَدَبٍ يَنْسِلُونَ)

(He will come to a people and call them)to his way(and they will respond to him. He will issue a command to the sky and it will rain, and to the earth and it will bring forth vegetation, then their livestock will come to them in the evening with their humps very high and their udders full of milk and their flanks wide and fat. Then he will come to another people and call them)to his way(and they will refuse, and their wealth will leave with him, and they will be faced with drought, with none of their wealth left. Then he will walk through the wasteland and will say to it, "Bring forth your treasure," and its treasure will come forth like a swarm of bees. Then he will issue commands that a man be killed, and he will strike him with a sword and cut him into two pieces, and (put these pieces as far apart) as the distance between an archer and his target. Then he will call him, and the man will come to him with his face shining. At that point Allah will send the Messiah `Isa bin Maryam, who will come down to the white minaret in the eastern side of Damascus, wearing two garments lightly dyed with saffron and with his hands resting on the wings of two angels. He will search for him (the Dajjal) until he catches up with him at the eastern gate of Ludd, where he will kill him. Then Allah will reveal to `Isa ibn Maryam the words: "I have brought forth from amongst My creatures people against whom none will be able to fight. Take My servants safely to the Mount (Tur)." Then Allah will send Ya'juj and Ma'juj, as Allah says: (and they swoop down from every Hadab.))

فَيَرْغَبُ عِيسَى وَأَصْحَابُهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ،
 فَيُرْسِلُ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ نَعَقًا فِي رِقَابِهِمْ فَيُصْبِحُونَ
 فَرَسَى كَمَوْتِ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ، فَيَهْبِطُ عِيسَى
 وَأَصْحَابُهُ فَلَا يَجِدُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ بَيْتًا إِلَّا قَدْ مَلَأَهُ
 زَهْمُهُمْ وَنَتْنُهُمْ، فَيَرْغَبُ عِيسَى وَأَصْحَابُهُ إِلَى
 اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ، فَيُرْسِلُ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ طَيْرًا كَأَعْنَاقِ
 الْبُخْتِ، فَتَحْمِلُهُمْ فَتَطْرَحُهُمْ حَيْثُ شَاءَ اللَّهُ»

(`Isa and his companions will beseech Allah, and Allah will send against them insects which will attack their necks, and in the morning they will all perish as one. Then `Isa and his companions will come down and they will not find a single spot on earth that is free from their putrefaction and stench. Then `Isa and his companions will again beseech Allah, and He will send birds with necks like those of Bactrian camels, and they will carry them and throw them wherever Allah wills.) Ibn Jabir said: "Ata' bin Yazid As-Saksaki told me, from Ka'b or someone else: `They will throw them into Al-Mahbal.' Ibn Jabir said: "I said, `O Abu Yazid, and where is Al-Mahbal" He said, "In the east (where the sun rises)." He said:

«وَيُرْسِلُ اللَّهُ مَطْرًا لَا يَكُنُّ مِنْهُ بَيْتٌ مَدْرٍ وَلَا
 وَبَرٍ أَرْبَعِينَ يَوْمًا، فَيَعْسِلُ الْأَرْضَ حَتَّى يَبْرُكَهَا
 كَالزَّلْفَةِ، وَيُقَالُ لِلأَرْضِ: أَنْبِي تَمْرَكٍ وَرُدِّي
 بَرَكَتَكَ، قَالَ: فَيَوْمَئِذٍ يَأْكُلُ النَّقْرُ مِنَ الرُّمَانَةِ
 فَيَسْتَظِلُّونَ بِقِحْفِهَا، وَيُبَارِكُ فِي الرَّسْلِ حَتَّى إِنَّ
 اللَّقْحَةَ مِنَ الْإِيلِ لَتَكْفِي الْفَيْئَامَ مِنَ النَّاسِ، وَاللَّقْحَةَ
 مِنَ الْبَقْرِ تَكْفِي الْفَخْدَ، وَالشَّاةَ مِنَ الْغَنَمِ تَكْفِي
 أَهْلَ الْبَيْتِ، قَالَ: فَبَيْنَمَا هُمْ عَلَى ذَلِكَ، إِذْ بَعَثَ

اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ رِيحًا طَيِّبَةً، فَتَأْخُذُهُمْ تَحْتَ أَبَاطِهِمْ
فَتَقْبِضُ رُوحَ كُلِّ مُسْلِمٍ أَوْ قَالَ: كُلِّ مُؤْمِنٍ وَيَبْقَى
شِرَارُ النَّاسِ، يَتَهَارَجُونَ تَهَارُجَ الْحُمْرِ، وَعَلَيْهِمْ
تَقُومُ السَّاعَةُ»

(Then Allah will send rain which no house of clay or (tent of) camel's hair will be able to keep out, for forty days, and the earth will be washed until it looks like a mirror. Then it will be said to the earth: bring forth your fruit and restore your blessing. On that day a group of people will be able to eat from one pomegranate and seek shade under its skin, and everything will be blessed. A milch-camel will give so much milk that it will be sufficient for a whole group of people, and a milch-cow will give so much milk that it will be sufficient for a whole clan, and a sheep will be sufficient for an entire household. At that time Allah will send a pleasant wind which will reach beneath their armpits and will take the soul of every Muslim -- or every believer -- and there will be left only the most evil of people who will commit fornication like mules, and then the Hour will come upon them.)" This was also recorded by Muslim but not by Al-Bukhari. It was also recorded by the Sunan compilers, with different chains of narrators. At-Tirmidhi said, "It is Hasan Sahih." The Third Hadith Imam Ahmad recorded from Ibn Harmalah, from his maternal aunt who said: "The Messenger of Allah gave a Khutbah, and he had a bandage on his finger where he had been stung by a scorpion. He said:

«إِنَّكُمْ تَقُولُونَ: لَا عَدُوَّ لَكُمْ، وَإِنَّكُمْ لَا تَزَالُونَ
نُقَاتِلُونَ عَدُوًّا، حَتَّى يَأْتِيَ يَأْجُوجُ وَمَأْجُوجُ:
عِرَاضَ الْوُجُوهِ، صِغَارَ الْعُيُونِ، صُهَبَ
الشَّعَافِ، مِنْ كُلِّ حَدَبٍ يَنْسِلُونَ كَأَنَّ وُجُوهُهُمْ
الْمَجَانُّ الْمَطْرَقَةُ»

(You say that you have no enemy, but you will keep fighting your enemies until Ya'juj and Ma'juj come, with their wide faces, small eyes and reddish hair, pouring down from every mound with their faces looking like burnished shields.)" Ibn Abi Hatim recorded a Hadith of Muhammad bin `Amr from Khalid bin `Abdullah bin Harmalah Al-Mudlaji, from his paternal aunt, from the Prophet , and he mentioned something similar. It was confirmed by Hadiths that `Isa bin Maryam will perform Hajj to the Al-Bayt Al-`Atiq (i.e., the Ka`bah). Imam Ahmad recorded that Abu Sa`id said: "The Messenger of Allah said:

«لِيُحَجِّنَ هَذَا الْبَيْتَ وَلِيُعْتَمِرَنَّ بَعْدَ خُرُوجِ
يَأْجُوجَ وَمَأْجُوجَ»

(He will certainly come to this House and perform Hajj and `Umrah, after the emergence of Ya'juj and Ma'juj.) This was recorded by Al-Bukhari.

(وَاقْتَرَبَ الْوَعْدُ الْحَقُّ)

(And the true promise (Day of Resurrection) shall draw near.) the Day of Resurrection, when these terrors and earthquakes and this chaos will come to pass. The Hour has drawn nigh and when it comes to pass, the disbelievers will say: "This is a difficult Day." Allah says:

(فَإِذَا هِيَ شَخِصَةٌ أَبْصَرُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا)

(Then, you shall see the eyes of the disbelievers fixedly staring in horror.) because of the horror of the tremendous events that they are witnessing.

(يَوَيْلَنَا)

(Woe to us!) means, they will say, `Woe to us!'

(قَدْ كُنَّا فِي غَفْلَةٍ مِّنْ هَذَا)

(We were indeed heedless of this) means, in the world.

(بَلْ كُنَّا ظَالِمِينَ)

(nay, but we were wrongdoers.) they will admit their wrong- doing at the time when that will not help them at all.

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

(لَوْ كَانَ هَؤُلَاءِ ءَالِهَةً مَا وَرَدُّوهَا وَكُلُّ فِيهَا
خَالِدُونَ - لَهُمْ فِيهَا زَفِيرٌ وَهُمْ فِيهَا لَا يَسْمَعُونَ -

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ سَبَقَتْ لَهُمْ مِنَّا الْحُسْنَىٰ أُولَٰئِكَ عَنْهَا مُبْعَدُونَ - لَا يَسْمَعُونَ حَسِيسَهَا وَهُمْ فِي مَا اشْتَهَتْ أَنفُسُهُمْ خَالِدُونَ - لَا يَحْزَنُهُمُ الْفَزَعُ الْأَكْبَرُ وَتَتَلَقَّهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ هَٰذَا يَوْمُكُمْ الَّذِي كُنْتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ)

(98. Certainly you and that which you are worshipping now besides Allah, are (but) fuel (Hasab) for Hell! (Surely) you will enter it.) (99. Had these been gods, they would not have entered there (Hell), and all of them will abide therein forever.) (100. Therein they will be breathing out with deep sighs and roaring and therein they will hear not.) (101. Verily, those for whom the good has preceded from Us, they will be removed far therefrom (Hell).) (102. They shall not hear the slightest sound of it (Hell), while they abide in that which their own selves desire.) (103. The greatest terror will not grieve them, and the angels will meet them, (with the greeting:) "This is your Day which you were promised.")

The Idolators and their gods are Fuel for Hell

Allah says to the people of Makkah, the idolators of the Quraysh and those who followed their religion of idol worship:

(إِنَّكُمْ وَمَا تَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ حَصَبُ جَهَنَّمَ)

(Certainly you and that which you are worshipping now besides Allah, are (but) Hasab for Hell!). Ibn `Abbas said: "Kindling." This is like the Ayah:

(وَقَوْدُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ)

(whose fuel is men and stones))66:6(. According to another report, Ibn `Abbas said:

(حَصَبُ جَهَنَّمَ)

(Hasab for Hell) means firewood in (the dialect of the people of) Zanjiyyah. Mujahid, `Ikrimah and Qatadah said: "Its fuel." Ad-Dahhak said: "The fuel of Hell means that which is thrown into it." This was also the view of others.

(أَنْتُمْ لَهَا وَارِدُونَ)