

مَثَلُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِرَبِّهِمْ أَعْمَالُهُمْ كَرَمَادٍ اشْتَدَّتْ
بِهِ الرِّيحُ

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

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا تُبْطِلُوا صَدَقَاتِكُمْ بِالْمَنِّ
وَالْأُدَىٰ

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

لَا يَقْدِرُونَ عَلَىٰ شَيْءٍ مِّمَّا كَسَبُوا

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

وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَعْمَالُهُمْ كَسَرَابٍ بِقِيعَةٍ يَحْسَبُهُ
الظَّمَانُ مَاءً حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءَهُ لَمْ يَجِدْهُ شَيْئًا

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

The Abode of the People of Paradise

Allah says:

أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ يَوْمَئِذٍ خَيْرٌ مُّسْتَقَرًّا وَأَحْسَنُ
مَقِيلًا

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

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

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

(خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا حَسَنَتٌ مُسْتَقَرًّا وَمُقَامًا)

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

(إِنَّهَا سَاءَتْ مُسْتَقَرًّا وَمُقَامًا)

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

(أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ يَوْمَئِذٍ خَيْرٌ مُسْتَقَرًّا وَأَحْسَنُ
مَقِيلًا)

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

(أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ يَوْمَئِذٍ خَيْرٌ مُسْتَقَرًّا وَأَحْسَنُ
مَقِيلًا)

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

(أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ يَوْمَئِذٍ خَيْرٌ مُّسْتَقَرًّا وَأَحْسَنُ مَقِيلًا)

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

(وَيَوْمَ تَشَقَّقُ السَّمَاءُ بِالْغَمِّ وَنُزِّلَ الْمَلَائِكَةُ تَنْزِيلًا - الْمَلِكُ يَوْمَئِذٍ الْحَقُّ لِلرَّحْمَنِ وَكَانَ يَوْمًا عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ عَسِيرًا - وَيَوْمَ يَعَضُّ الظَّالِمُ عَلَى يَدَيْهِ يَقُولُ يَلِيَّتَنِي أَخَذْتُ مَعَ الرَّسُولِ سَيْبًا - يَوَيْلًا لِّيُنِّي لِمَ أَخَذَ فَأَنَا خَلِيلًا - لَقَدْ أَضَلَّنِي عَنِ الذِّكْرِ بَعْدَ إِذْ جَاءَنِي وَكَانَ الشَّيْطَانُ لِلْإِنْسَانِ خَذُولًا)

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

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

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

هَلْ يَنْظُرُونَ إِلَّا أَنْ يَأْتِيَهُمُ اللَّهُ فِي ظُلَلٍ مِّنَ
الْغَمَامِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةِ

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

(الْمَلِكُ يَوْمَئِذٍ الْحَقُّ لِلرَّحْمَنِ)

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

(لِمَنْ الْمُلْكُ الْيَوْمَ لِلَّهِ الْوَاحِدِ الْقَهَّارِ)

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

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

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

(وَكَانَ يَوْمًا عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ عَسِيرًا)

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

(فَذَلِكَ يَوْمًا يَوْمٌ عَسِيرٌ - عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ غَيْرُ
يَسِيرٍ)

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

(لَا يَحْزَنُهُمُ الْفَزَعُ الْأَكْبَرُ)

(The greatest terror will not grieve them.)

(وَيَوْمَ يَعَضُّ الظَّالِمُ عَلَى يَدَيْهِ يَقُولُ يَلِيَّتَنِي
اتَّخَذْتُ مَعَ الرَّسُولِ سَبِيلًا)

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

(يَوْمَ تُقَلَّبُ وُجُوهُهُمْ فِي النَّارِ)

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

(وَيَوْمَ يَعَضُّ الظَّالِمُ عَلَى يَدَيْهِ يَقُولُ يَلِيَّتَنِي
اتَّخَذْتُ مَعَ الرَّسُولِ سَبِيلًا - يَوَيْلًا لِيَّتَنِي لِمَ اتَّخَذْتُ
فُلَانًا خَلِيلًا)

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

(لَقَدْ أَضَلَّنِي عَنِ الذِّكْرِ)

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

(بَعْدَ إِذْ جَاءَنِي)

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

(وَكَانَ الشَّيْطَانُ لِلْإِنْسَانِ خَذُولًا)

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

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

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

The Messenger will complain against His Opponents

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

(وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَا تَسْمَعُوا لِهَذَا الْقُرْآنِ
وَالْغَوْا فِيهِ)

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

(وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَا لِكُلِّ نَبِيٍّ عَدُوًّا مِّنَ الْمُجْرِمِينَ)

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

وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَا لِكُلِّ نَبِيٍّ عَدُوًّا شَيَاطِينَ الْإِنْسِ
وَالْجِنِّ

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

(وَكَفَىٰ بِرَبِّكَ هَادِيًا وَنَصِيرًا)

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

(هَادِيًا وَنَصِيرًا)

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

وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَا لِكُلِّ نَبِيٍّ عَدُوًّا مِّنَ الْمُجْرِمِينَ

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

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

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

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

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

(لَوْلَا نُزِّلَ عَلَيْهِ الْقُرْآنُ جُمْلَةً وَاحِدَةً)

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

(وَقَرَأْنَاهُ أَقْسَامًا)

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

(لِنُنَبِّئَكَ بِهِ قُورَآئِكَ وَرَأَيْنَاهُ تَرَئِيًّا)

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

(وَلَا يَأْتُونَكَ بِمَثَلٍ)

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

(إِلَّا جِئْنَاكَ بِالْحَقِّ وَأَحْسَنَ تَفْسِيرًا)

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

(وَلَا يَأْتُونَكَ بِمَثَلٍ إِلَّا جِئْنَاكَ بِالْحَقِّ وَأَحْسَنَ تَفْسِيرًا)

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

(وَقُرْءَانًا فَرَقْنَاهُ لِتَقْرَأَهُ عَلَى النَّاسِ عَلَى مُكْتٍ
وَنَزَّلْنَاهُ تَنْزِيلًا)

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

(الَّذِينَ يُحْشَرُونَ عَلَى وُجُوهِهِمْ إِلَىٰ جَهَنَّمَ أُولَٰئِكَ
شَرٌّ مَّكَانًا وَأَضَلُّ سَبِيلًا)

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

«إِنَّ الَّذِي أَمْشَاهُ عَلَىٰ رِجْلَيْهِ قَادِرٌ أَنْ يُمَشِّيَهُ
عَلَىٰ وَجْهِهِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ»

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

(وَلَقَدْ ءَاتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ وَجَعَلْنَا مَعَهُ أَخَاهُ
هَارُونَ وَزَيْرًا - فَقُلْنَا اذْهَبَا إِلَى الْقَوْمِ الَّذِينَ
كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا فَدَمَّرْنَاهُمْ تَدْمِيرًا - وَقَوْمَ نُوحٍ لَمَّا
كَذَّبُوا الرَّسُلَ أَغْرَقْنَاهُمْ وَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ لِلنَّاسِ ءَايَةً
وَأَعْتَدْنَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ عَذَابًا أَلِيمًا - وَعَادًا وَتَمُودًا
وَأَصْحَابَ الرَّسِّ وَقُرُونًا بَيْنَ ذَلِكَ كَثِيرًا - وَكُلًّا
ضَرَبْنَا لَهُ الْأَمْثَالَ وَكُلًّا تَبَّرْنَا تَتْبِيرًا - وَلَقَدْ أَتَوْا

عَلَى الْقَرْيَةِ الَّتِي أَمْطَرْتَ مَطَرَ السَّوِّءِ أَفَلَمْ
يَكُونُوا يَرَوْنَهَا بَلْ كَانُوا لَا يَرْجُونَ نُشُورًا)

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

Frightening the Idolators of Quraysh

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

دَمَّرَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلِلْكَافِرِينَ أَمْثَلَهَا)

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

(وَقَوْمَ نُوحٍ لَمَّا كَذَّبُوا الرُّسُلَ)

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

(وَمَا ءَامَنَ مَعَهُ إِلَّا قَلِيلٌ)

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

(وَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ لِلنَّاسِ ءَايَةً)

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

(إِنَّا لَمَّا طَغَا الْمَاءُ حَمَلْنَاكُمْ فِي الْجَارِيَةِ -
لِنَجْعَلَهَا لَكُمْ تَذْكِرَةً وَتَعِيهَا أَدُنُّ وَعَيْةٌ)

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

(وَعَادًا وَثَمُودًا وَأَصْحَابَ الرَّسِّ)

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

(وَقَرُونَا بَيْنَ ذَلِكَ كَثِيرًا)

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

(وَكُلًّا ضَرَبْنَا لَهُ الْأَمْثَالَ)

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

(وَكُلًّا تَبَّرْنَا تَتْبِيرًا)

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

(وَكَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا مِنَ الْقُرُونِ مِنْ بَعْدِ نُوحٍ)

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

(ثُمَّ أَنشَأْنَا مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ قُرُونًا آخَرِينَ)

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

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

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

وَلَقَدْ أَتَوْا عَلَى الْقَرْيَةِ الَّتِي أَمْطَرْنَا مَطْرَ السَّوَاءِ

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

وَأَمْطَرْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ مَطْرًا فَسَاءَ مَطْرُ الْمُنذَرِينَ

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

وَإِنَّكُمْ لَتَمُرُّونَ عَلَيْهِمْ مُصْبِحِينَ - وَبِالْأَيْلِ أَفْلَاحًا تَعْقِلُونَ

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

وَإِنَّهَا لَيْسَ بِلِمْ مَقِيمٍ

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

وَإِنَّهُمَا لَبِإِمَامٍ مُّبِينٍ

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

(أَفَلَمْ يَكُونُوا يَرَوْنَهَا)

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

(بَلْ كَانُوا لَا يَرْجُونَ نُشُورًا)

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

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

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

How the Disbelievers mocked the Messenger

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

(وَإِذَا رَأَى الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِن يَتَّخِذُونَكَ إِلَّا هُزُوعًا)

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

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

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

(وَلَقَدْ اسْتَهْزَىءَ بِرُسُلٍ مِّن قَبْلِكَ)

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

(إِن كَادَ لَيُضِلَّنَا عَنْ آلِهَتِنَا)

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

(وَسَوْفَ يَعْلَمُونَ حِينَ يَرَوْنَ الْعَذَابَ)

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

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

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

(أَرَأَيْتَ مَنِ اتَّخَذَ إِلَهَهُ هَوَاهُ)

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

(أَفَمَن زُيِّنَ لَهُ سُوءَ عَمَلِهِ فَرَآهُ حَسَنًا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ يُضِلُّ مَن يَشَاءُ)

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

(أَفَأَنْتَ تَكُونُ عَلَيْهِ وَكَيْلًا)

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

(أَمْ تَحْسَبُ أَنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ يَسْمَعُونَ أَوْ يَعْقِلُونَ)

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

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

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

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

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

(أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى رَبِّكَ كَيْفَ مَدَّ الظِّلَّ)

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

(وَلَوْ شَاءَ لَجَعَلَهُ سَاكِنًا)

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

(قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِنْ جَعَلَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكُمُ اللَّيْلَ سَرْمَدًا)

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

(ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَا الشَّمْسَ عَلَيْهِ دَلِيلًا)

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

(ثُمَّ قَبَضْنَاهُ إِلَيْنَا قَبْضًا يَسِيرًا)

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

(يَسِيرًا)

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

(قَبْضًا يَسِيرًا)

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

(وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ اللَّيْلَ لِبَاسًا)

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

(وَاللَّيْلَ إِذَا يَعْشَى)

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

(وَالنَّوْمَ سُبَاتًا)

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

(وَجَعَلَ النَّهَارَ نُشُورًا)

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

(وَمِنْ رَحْمَتِهِ جَعَلَ لَكُمْ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ لِتَسْكُنُوا فِيهِ
وَلِتَبْتَغُوا مِنْ فَضْلِهِ)

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

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

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

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

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

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

(وَأَنْزَلْنَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً طَهُورًا)

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

«إِنَّ الْمَاءَ طَهُورٌ لَّا يُنَجِّسُهُ شَيْءٌ»

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

(لِنُحْيِيَ بِهِ بَلْدَةً مَّيْتًا)

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

(فَإِذَا أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْهَا الْمَاءَ اهْتَزَّتْ وَرَبَتْ)

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

(وَنُسْقِيهِ مِمَّا خَلَقْنَا أَنْعَمًا وَأَنْاسِيَّ كَثِيرًا)

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

(وَهُوَ الَّذِي يُنَزِّلُ الْغَيْثَ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا قَنَطُوا)

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

(فَانظُرْ إِلَى ءَاثِرِ رَحْمَةِ اللَّهِ كَيْفَ يُحْيِي الْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا)

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

(وَلَقَدْ صَرَّفْنَاهُ بَيْنَهُمْ لِيَذَّكَّرُوا)

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

وَلَقَدْ صَرَّفْنَاهُ بَيْنَهُمْ لِيَذَّكَّرُوا فَأَبَى أَكْثَرُ النَّاسِ
إِلَّا كُفُورًا)

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

(فَأَبَى أَكْثَرُ النَّاسِ إِلَّا كُفُورًا)

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

«أَتَذَرُونَ مَاذَا قَالَ رَبُّكُمْ؟»

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

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

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

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

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

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

Allah says:

(وَلَوْ شِئْنَا لَبَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ قَرْيَةٍ نَذِيرًا)

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

(لَأُنذِرَكُمْ بِهِ وَمَنْ بَلَغَ)

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

(وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِهِ مِنَ الْأَحْزَابِ فَالنَّارُ مَوْعِدُهُ)

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

(لَتُنذِرَ أُمَّ الْقُرَى وَمَنْ حَوْلَهَا)

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

﴿قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ جَمِيعًا﴾

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

«بُعِثْتُ إِلَى الْأَحْمَرِ وَالْأَسْوَدِ»

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

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

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

﴿فَلَا تُطِعِ الْكَافِرِينَ وَجَاهِدْهُمْ بِهِ﴾

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

﴿جِهَادًا كَبِيرًا﴾

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

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ جَاهِدِ الْكُفْرَ وَالْمُنَافِقِينَ﴾

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

﴿وَهُوَ الَّذِي مَرَجَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ هَذَا عَذْبٌ فُرَاتٌ
وَهَذَا مِلْحٌ أُجَاجٌ﴾

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

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

(وَهَذَا مِلْحٌ أُجَاجٌ)

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

«هُوَ الطَّهُورُ مَأْوُهُ، الْحِلُّ مَيْتَتُهُ»

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

(وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَهُمَا بَرْزَخًا وَحِجْرًا)

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

(بَرْزَخًا)

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

(وَحِجْرًا مَّحْجُورًا)

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

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

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

أَمَّنْ جَعَلَ الْأَرْضَ قَرَارًا وَجَعَلَ خِلَالَهَا أَنْهَارًا
وَجَعَلَ لَهَا رَوَاسِيَّ وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ حَاجِزًا
أَعْلَهُ مَعَ اللَّهِ بَلْ أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ)

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

(وَهُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ مِنَ الْمَاءِ بَشَرًا)

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

(فَجَعَلَهُ نَسَبًا وَصِهْرًا)

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

(وَكَانَ رَبُّكَ قَدِيرًا)

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

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

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

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

The Ignorance of the Idolators

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

(وَكَانَ الْكُفْرُ عَلَى رَبِّهِ ظَهِيْرًا)

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

(وَاتَّخَذُوا مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ ءَالِهَةً لَّعَلَّهُمْ يُنصَرُونَ -
 لَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ نَصْرَهُمْ وَهُمْ لَهُمْ جُنْدٌ مُّحَضَّرُونَ)

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

(وَكَانَ الْكَافِرُ عَلَى رَبِّهِ ظَهِيْرًا)

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

The Messenger brings Glad Tidings and Warnings

Then Allah tells His Messenger:

(وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا مُبَشِّرًا وَنَذِيرًا)

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

(قُلْ مَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ أَجْرٍ)

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

(لِمَنْ شَاءَ مِنْكُمْ أَنْ يَسْتَقِيمَ)

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

(إِلَّا مَنْ شَاءَ أَنْ يَتَّخِذَ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِ سَبِيلًا)

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

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

Then Allah says:

(وَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى الْحَيِّ الَّذِي لَا يَمُوتُ)

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

(الْأَوَّلُ وَالْآخِرُ وَالظَّهْرُ وَالْبَطْنُ وَهُوَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ)

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

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

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

(وَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِهِ)

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

«سُبْحَانَكَ اللَّهُمَّ رَبَّنَا وَبِحَمْدِكَ»

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

(رَبُّ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ فَاتَّخِذْهُ وَكِيلًا)

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

(فَاعْبُدْهُ وَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَيْهِ)

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

(قُلْ هُوَ الرَّحْمَنُ ءَامَنَّا بِهِ وَعَلَيْهِ تَوَكَّلْنَا)

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

(وَكَفَىٰ بِهِ يَدُنُوبٍ عِبَادِهِ خَيْرًا)

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

(الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ)

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

(فِي سِتَّةِ أَيَّامٍ ثُمَّ اسْتَوَىٰ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ)

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

(ثُمَّ اسْتَوَىٰ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ الرَّحْمَنُ فَاسْأَلْ بِهِ خَيْرًا)

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

(فَإِنْ تَنَازَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ)

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

(وَمَا اخْتَلَفْتُمْ فِيهِ مِنْ شَيْءٍ فَحُكْمُهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ)

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

(وَتَمَّتْ كَلِمَةُ رَبِّكَ صِدْقًا وَعَدْلًا)

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

(فَأَسْأَلُ بِهِ خَيْرًا)

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

Condemnation of the Idolators

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

(وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ اسْجُدُوا لِلرَّحْمَنِ قَالُوا وَمَا الرَّحْمَنُ)

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

«اَكْتُبْ بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ»

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

(قُلْ اَدْعُوا اللّٰهَ اَوْ اَدْعُوا الرَّحْمٰنَ اَيًّا مَّا تَدْعُوْنَ
فَلَهُ الْاَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنٰی)

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

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ اسْجُدُوا لِلرَّحْمَنِ قَالُوا وَمَا
الرَّحْمَنُ

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

(أَنْسَجِدُ لِمَا تَأْمُرُنَا)

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

(وَزَادَهُمْ نُفُورًا)

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

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

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

Mentioning the Might and Power of Allah

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

(وَلَقَدْ زَيَّنَّا السَّمَاءَ الدُّنْيَا بِمَصَابِيحَ)

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

تَبَارَكَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ فِي السَّمَاءِ بُرُوجًا وَجَعَلَ
فِيهَا سِرَاجًا

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

وَجَعَلْنَا سِرَاجًا وَهَاجًا)

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

وَقَمْرًا مُنِيرًا

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

هُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ الشَّمْسَ ضِيَاءً وَالْقَمَرَ نُورًا)

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

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

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

وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ خِلْفَةً)

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

وَسَخَّرَ لَكُمُ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ دَائِبِينَ)

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

يُعْشَى اللَّيْلَ النَّهَارَ يَطْلُبُهُ حَثِيثًا)

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

(لَا الشَّمْسُ يَنْبَغِي لَهَا أَنْ تُدْرِكَ الْقَمَرَ)

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

(لِمَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يَذْكُرَ أَوْ أَرَادَ شُكُوراً)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Attributes of the Servants of the Most Gracious

These are the attributes of the believing servants of Allah,

(الَّذِينَ يَمْشُونَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ هَوْنًا)

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

(وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَحًا)

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

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

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

(وَإِذَا خَاطَبَهُمُ الْجَاهِلُونَ قَالُوا سَلَامًا)

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

(وَإِذَا سَمِعُوا اللَّغْوَ أَعْرَضُوا عَنْهُ)

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

(وَالَّذِينَ يَبِيتُونَ لِرَبِّهِمْ سُجَّدًا وَقِيَامًا)

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

(كَانُوا قَلِيلًا مِّنَ اللَّيْلِ مَا يَهْجَعُونَ - وَيَالِ الْأُنْحَارِ
هُمُ يَسْتَغْفِرُونَ)

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

(تَتَجَافَى جُنُوبُهُمْ عَنِ الْمَضَاجِعِ)

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

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

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

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

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

(إِنَّ عَذَابَهَا كَانَ غَرَامًا)

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

(إِنَّهَا سَاءَتْ مُسْتَقَرًّا وَمُقَامًا)

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

(وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا أَنْفَقُوا لَمْ يُسْرِفُوا وَلَمْ يَقْتُرُوا)

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

(وَكَانَ بَيْنَ ذَلِكَ قَوَامًا)

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

(وَلَا تَجْعَلْ يَدَكَ مَغْلُولَةً إِلَىٰ عُنُقِكَ وَلَا تَبْسُطْهَا
كُلَّ الْبَسْطِ)

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

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

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

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

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

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

«أَنْ تَجْعَلَ لِلَّهِ نِدًّا وَهُوَ خَلَقَكَ»

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

«أَنْ تَقْتُلَ وَلَدَكَ خَشْيَةً أَنْ يَطْعَمَ مَعَكَ»

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

«أَنْ تُزَانِيَ حَلِيلَةَ جَارِكَ»

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

«وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَدْعُونَ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَهًا آخَرَ»

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

«وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَدْعُونَ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَهًا آخَرَ»

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

«قُلْ يِعْبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ»

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

«وَمَنْ يَفْعَلْ ذَلِكَ يَلْقَ أَثَامًا»

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

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

(يُضَعَفُ لَهُ الْعَذَابُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ)

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

(وَيَخْذُ فِيهِ مُهَانًا)

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

(إِلَّا مَنْ تَابَ وَءَامَنَ وَعَمِلَ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا)

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

(إِلَّا مَنْ تَابَ)

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

(وَمَنْ يَقْتُلْ مُؤْمِنًا مُتَعَمِّدًا)

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

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

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

﴿فَأَوْلِيكَ يَبْدُلُ اللَّهُ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ حَسَنَاتٍ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا﴾

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

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

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

«أَأَسْلَمْتَ؟»

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

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

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

«وَعَدَرَائِكَ وَفَجَرَائِكَ»

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

(وَمَنْ تَابَ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَإِنَّهُ يَتُوبُ إِلَى اللَّهِ
مَتَابًا)

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

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

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

(أَلَمْ يَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ يَقْبَلُ التَّوْبَةَ عَنْ عِبَادِهِ)

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

(قُلْ يَاعِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا
مِن رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ)

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

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

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

More Attributes of the Servants of the Most Gracious

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

(لَا يَشْهَدُونَ الزُّورَ)

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

«أَلَا أَنْبِئُكُمْ بِأَكْبَرِ الْكَبَائِرِ؟»

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

«الشِّرْكَُ بِاللَّهِ وَعُقُوقُ الْوَالِدَيْنِ»

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

«أَلَا وَقَوْلُ الزُّورِ، أَلَا وَشَهَادَةُ الزُّورِ»

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

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

(وَإِذَا مَرُّوا بِاللَّغْوِ مَرُّوا كِرَامًا)

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

(مَرُّوا كِرَامًا)

(they pass by it with dignity.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

(لَمْ يَخِرُّوا عَلَيْهَا صُمًّا وَعُمْيَانًا)

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

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

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

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

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

(وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(أُولَئِكَ)

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

(يُجْزَوْنَ)

(will be rewarded) on the Day of Resurrection,

(الْعُرْفَةَ)

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

(بِمَا صَبَرُوا)

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

(وَيُلَقَّوْنَ فِيهَا)

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

(تَحِيَّةً وَسَلَامًا)

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

(خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا)

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

(وَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ سَعِدُوا ففِي الْجَنَّةِ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا مَا
دَامَتِ السَّمَوَاتُ وَالْأَرْضُ)

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

(حَسُنَتْ مُسْتَقَرًّا وَمُقَامًا)

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

(قُلْ مَا يَعْبَأُ بِكُمْ رَبِّي)

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

(فَقَدْ كَذَّبْتُمْ)

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

(فَسَوْفَ يَكُونُ لِزَامًا)

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

(فَسَوْفَ يَكُونُ لِزَامًا)

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

The Tafsir of Surat Ash-Shu`ara

(Chapter - 26)

Which was revealed in Makkah

(بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ)

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

(طسّم - تِلْكَ ءَايَاتُ الْكِتَابِ الْمُبِينِ - لَعَلَّكَ بَخِعٌ
نَّفْسَكَ أَلَّا يَكُونُوا مُؤْمِنِينَ - إِنْ نَشَأْ نُنَزِّلْ عَلَيْهِمْ
مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ ءَايَةً فَظَلَّتْ أَعْنَاقُهُمْ لَهَا خَاضِعِينَ -
وَمَا يَأْتِيهِمْ مِّنْ ذِكْرٍ مِّنَ الرَّحْمٰنِ مُحَدَّثٍ إِلَّا
كَانُوا عَنْهُ مُعْرِضِينَ - فَقَدْ كَذَّبُوا فَسَيَأْتِيهِمْ أَنْبَاءٌ

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

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

The Qur'an and the Disbelievers turning away;

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

(تِلْكَ آيَاتُ الْكِتَابِ الْمُبِينِ)

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

(لَعَلَّكَ بَخِعٌ نَفْسًا)

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

(أَلَّا يَكُونُوا مُؤْمِنِينَ)

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

(فَلَا تَذْهَبْ نَفْسُكَ عَلَيْهِمْ حَسْرَتٍ)

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

(فَلَعَلَّكَ بَخِيعٌ نَفْسَكَ عَلَى آثَرِهِمْ إِنْ لَمْ يُؤْمِنُوا
بِهَذَا الْحَدِيثِ أَسَفًا)

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

(لَعَلَّكَ بَخِيعٌ نَفْسَكَ)

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

(إِنْ نَشَاءُ نُنَزِّلُ عَلَيْهِمْ مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ آيَةً فَظَلَّتْ
أَعْنَاقُهُمْ لَهَا خَاضِعِينَ)

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

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

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

(وَلَوْ شَاءَ رَبُّكَ لَجَعَلَ النَّاسَ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً)

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

(وَمَا يَأْتِيهِمْ مِّنْ ذِكْرٍ مِّنَ الرَّحْمَنِ مُحَدَّثٍ إِلَّا
كَانُوا عَنْهُ مُعْرِضِينَ)

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

(وَمَا أَكْثَرُ النَّاسِ وَلَوْ حَرَصْتَ بِمُؤْمِنِينَ)

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

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

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

(ثُمَّ أَرْسَلْنَا رُسُلَنَا تَتْرَىٰ كُلًّا مَّا جَاءَ أُمَّةً رَّسُولُهَا
كَذَّبُوهُ)

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

(فَقَدْ كَذَّبُوا فَسَيَأْتِيهِمْ أَنْبَاءُ مَا كَانُوا بِهِ
يَسْتَهْزِءُونَ)

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

(وَسَيَعْلَمُ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا أَيَّ مُنْقَلَبٍ يَنْقَلِبُونَ)

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

(إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لآيَةً)

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

(وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ)

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

(الرَّحِيمِ)

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

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

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

Between Musa and Fir`awn

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

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

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

(قَالَ رَبِّ اشْرَحْ لِي صَدْرِي - وَيَسِّرْ لِي أَمْرِي
)

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

(قَدْ أُوتِيتَ سُؤْلَكَ يَا مُوسَىٰ)

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

(وَلَهُمْ عَلَىٰ ذَنْبٍ فَأَخَافُ أَنْ يَقْتُلُونِ)

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

(قَالَ كَلَّا)

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

(سَنَشُدُّ عَضُدَكَ بِأَخِيكَ وَنَجْعَلُ لَكَمَا سُلْطٰنًا)

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

(فَلَا يَصِلُونَ إِلَيْكُمَا بِآيٰتِنَا أَنْتُمَا وَمَنْ اتَّبَعَكُمَا
الغٰلِبُونَ)

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

(فَاذْهَبَا بِآيٰتِنَا إِنَّا مَعَكُمْ مُسْتَمِعُونَ)

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

(إِنِّي مَعَكُمْ أَسْمَعُ وَأَرَىٰ)

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

(فَأْتِيَا فِرْعَوْنَ فَقُولَا إِنَّا رَسُولُ رَبِّ الْعٰلَمِينَ)

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

(إِنَّا رَسُولَا رَبِّكَ)