

(Between the two blasts, there will be only forty.) They said, "O Abu Hurayrah, forty days" He, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "I do not know." They said, "Forty years" He said, "I do not know." They said, "Forty months" He said, "I do not know."

«وَيَبْلَى كُلُّ شَيْءٍ مِنَ الْإِنْسَانِ إِلَّا عَجَبَ ذَنْبِهِ فِيهِ
يُرَكَّبُ الْخَلْقُ»

(Every part of a man will disintegrate apart from the root of his backbone, and out of that he will be created anew.)

(وَأَشْرَقَتِ الْأَرْضُ بِنُورِ رَبِّهَا)

(And the earth will shine with the light of its Lord,) means, it will shine brightly on the Day of Resurrection when the Truth (Allah), may He be glorified and exalted, manifests Himself to His creation, to pass judgement.

(وَوُضِعَ الْكِتَابُ)

(and the Book will be presented). Qatadah said, "The Book of deeds."

(وَجِيءَ بِالنَّبِيِّينَ)

(and the Prophets will be brought forward,) Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "They will bear witness against the nations, testifying that they conveyed the Message of Allah to them."

(وَالشُّهَدَاءُ)

(and the witnesses) means, witnesses from among the angels who record the deeds of all, good and evil alike.

(وَقَضِيَ بَيْنَهُم بِالْحَقِّ)

(and it will be judged between them with truth,) means, with justice.

(وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ)

(and they will not be wronged.) Allah says:

(وَنَضَعُ الْمَوَازِينَ الْقِسْطَ لِيَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ فَلَا تُظْلَمُ
نَفْسٌ شَيْئًا وَإِنْ كَانَ مِثْقَالَ حَبَّةٍ مِنْ خَرْدَلٍ أَتَيْنَا
بِهَا وَكَفَىٰ بِنَا حَٰسِبِينَ)

(And We shall setup 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.) (21:47)

(إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَظْلِمُ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ وَإِنْ تَكَ حَسَنَةً
يُضَاعِفْهَا وَيُؤْتِ مِنْ لَدُنْهُ أَجْرًا عَظِيمًا)

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

(وَوَقَّيْتُ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَّا عَمِلَتْ)

(And each person will be paid in full of what he did;) meaning, of good and evil.

(وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا يَفْعَلُونَ)

(and He is Best Aware of what they do).

(وَسِيقَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِلَىٰ جَهَنَّمَ زُمَرًا ۖ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا
جَاءُوهَا فَتِحَتْ أَبْوَابُهَا وَقَالَ لَهُمْ خَزَنَتُهَا أَلَمْ يَأْتِكُمْ
رُسُلٌ مِّنكُمْ يَنذِرُونَ عَلَيْكُمْ ءَايَاتٍ رَبِّكُمْ وَيُنذِرُونَكُمْ
لِقَاءَ يَوْمِكُمْ هَٰذَا قَالُوا بَلَىٰ وَلَكِنْ حَقَّتْ كَلِمَةُ
الْعَذَابِ عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ - قِيلَ ادْخُلُوا أَبْوَابَ جَهَنَّمَ
خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا فَبِئْسَ مَثْوَى الْمُتَكَبِّرِينَ)

(71. And those who disbelieved will be driven to Hell in groups till when they reach it, the gates thereof will be opened. And its keepers will say: "Did not the Messengers come to you

from yourselves, reciting to you the Ayat of your Lord, and warning you of the meeting of this Day of yours" They will say: "Yes," but the Word of torment has been justified against the disbelievers!) (72. It will be said: "Enter you the gates of Hell, to abide therein. And what an evil abode of the arrogant!")

How the Disbelievers will be driven to Hell

Allah tells us how the doomed disbeliever will be driven to Hell by force, with threats and warnings. This is like the Ayah:

(يَوْمَ يُدْعُونَ إِلَى نَارِ جَهَنَّمَ دَعَاً)

(The Day when they will be pushed down by force to the fire of Hell, with a horrible, forceful pushing.) (52:13) which means, they will be pushed and forced towards it, and they will be extremely thirsty, as Allah says:

(يَوْمَ نَحْشُرُ الْمُتَّقِينَ إِلَى الرَّحْمَنِ وَفَدَاً - وَنَسُوقُ
الْمُجْرِمِينَ إِلَى جَهَنَّمَ وَرَدَاً)

(The Day We shall gather those who have Taqwa unto the Most Gracious, like a delegation. And We shall drive the criminals to Hell, in a thirsty state.) (19:85-86) When they are in that state, they will be blind, dumb and deaf, and some of them will be walking on their faces:

(وَنَحْشُرُهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ عَلَى وُجُوهِهِمْ عُمِيَآ
وَبُكْمًا وَصُمًّا مَأْوَاهُمْ جَهَنَّمَ كُلَّمَا خَبَتْ زِدْنَاهُمْ
سَعِيرًا)

(and We shall gather them together on the Day of Resurrection on their faces, blind, dumb and deaf; their abode will be Hell; whenever it abates, We shall increase for them the fierceness of the Fire) (17:97).

(حَتَّى إِذَا جَاءُوهَا فَتِحَتْ أَبْوَابُهَا)

(till when they reach it, the gates thereof will be opened.) means, as soon as they arrive, the gates will be opened quickly, in order to hasten on their punishment. Then the keepers of Hell, who are stern angels, severe and strong, will say to them by way of rebuking and reprimanding:

(أَلَمْ يَأْتِكُمْ رَسُولٌ مِّنكُمْ)

(Did not the Messengers come to you from yourselves,) meaning, `of your own kind, so that you could have spoken to them and learned from them,'

(يَتْلُونَ عَلَيْكُمْ آيَاتِ رَبِّكُمْ)

(reciting to you the Ayat of your Lord,) means, `establishing proof against you that what they brought to you was true,'

(وَيُنذِرُونَكُمْ لِقَاءَ يَوْمِكُمْ هَذَا)

(and warning you of the meeting of this Day of yours) means, `warning you of the evil of this Day.' The disbeliever will say to them:

(بلى)

(Yes,) meaning, `they did come to us and warn us and establish proof and evidence against us,'

(وَلَكِنْ حَقَّتْ كَلِمَةُ الْعَذَابِ عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ)

(but the Word of torment has been justified against the disbelievers!) means, `but we rejected them and went against them, because we were already doomed, as it was decreed that we would be, because we had turned away from the truth towards falsehood.' This is like the Ayat:

(كُلَّمَا أُلْقِيَ فِيهَا فَوْجٌ سَأَلَهُمْ خَزَنَتُهَا أَلَمْ يَأْتِكُمْ نَذِيرٌ)

(Every time a group is cast therein, its keeper will ask: "Did no warner come to you" They will say: "Yes, indeed a warner came to us, but we denied him and said: `Allah never revealed anything; you are only in great error.'" And they will say: "Had we but listened or used our intelligence, we would not have been among the dwellers of the blazing Fire!") (67:9-10) which means, they will feel regret and will blame themselves.

(فَاعْتَرَفُوا بِذَنبِهِمْ فَسُحْقًا لِأَصْحَابِ السَّعِيرِ)

(Then they will confess their sin. So, away with the dwellers of the blazing Fire!) (67:11) means, they are lost and doomed.

(قِيلَ ادْخُلُوا أَبْوَابَ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا)

(It will be said (to them): "Enter you the gates of Hell, to abide therein...") means everyone who sees them and the situation they are in, will testify that they deserve the punishment.

These words are not attributed to any specific person, but they are said as an indication that the entire universe will bear witness that they deserve what they are suffering, in accordance with the judgement of the Most Just, the All-Knowing. Allah says:

(قِيلَ ادْخُلُوا أَبْوَابَ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا)

(It will be said (to them): "Enter you the gates of Hell, to abide therein..." meaning, `to stay there forever; you will never leave or depart.'

(فَبِئْسَ مَثْوَى الْمُتَكَبِّرِينَ)

(And (indeed) what an evil abode of the arrogant!) means, `what an evil destiny and what an evil place to stay, because of your arrogance in this world and your refusal to follow the truth; this is what has led you to this, what an evil state and what an evil final destination!'

(وَسِيقَ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا رَبَّهُمْ إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ زُمَرًا حَتَّى إِذَا جَاءُوهَا وَفُتِحَتْ أَبْوَابُهَا وَقَالَ لَهُمْ خَزَنَتُهَا سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ طِبْتُمْ فَادْخُلُوهَا خَالِدِينَ - وَقَالُوا الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي صَدَقْنَا وَعَدَّهُ وَأَوْرَثَنَا الْأَرْضَ نَتَّبِعُوا مِنَ الْجَنَّةِ حَيْثُ نَشَاءُ فَنِعْمَ أَجْرُ الْعَامِلِينَ)

(73. And those who had Taqwa will be led to Paradise in groups till when they reach it, and its gates will be opened and its keepers will say: "Salam `Alaykum (peace be upon you)! You have done well, so enter here to abide therein forever.") (74. And they will say: "All the praises and thanks be to Allah Who has fulfilled His promise to us and has made us inherit the land. We can dwell in Paradise where we will; how excellent a reward for the workers!")

The Believers will be taken to Paradise Here

Allah tells us about the blessed believers, who will be taken to Paradise in groups, one group after another, starting with the best of them: those who are closest to Allah, then the most righteous, then the next best and the next best. Each group will be with others like them, Prophets with Prophets, the true believers with their peers, the martyrs with their counterparts, the scholars with their colleagues, every group composed of people of the same kind.

(حَتَّى إِذَا جَاءُوهَا)

(till when they reach it,) means, when they arrive at the gates of Paradise, after passing over the Srar, where they will be detained on a bridge between Paradise and Hell, and any injustices that existed between them in this world will be settled until they have all been purified from sin through this trial. Then permission will be granted for them to enter Paradise. It was recorded in the Hadith about the Trumpet that when the believers reach the gates of Paradise, they will consult one another as to who should ask permission for them to enter. They will ask Adam, then Nuh, then Ibrahim, then Musa, then `Isa, then Muhammad (may blessings and peace be upon them all). This is akin to what will happen in the arena of judgement, when they will ask for someone to intercede for them with Allah when He comes to pass judgement. This is to show the noble position of Muhammad above the rest of mankind in all situations. In Sahih Muslim, it is reported that Anas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allah said:

«أَنَا أَوَّلُ شَفِيعٍ فِي الْجَنَّةِ»

(I will be the first intercessor in Paradise.) According to the wording of Muslim:

«وَأَنَا أَوَّلُ مَنْ يَقْرَعُ بَابَ الْجَنَّةِ»

(I will be the first one to knock at the gates of Paradise.) Imam Ahmad recorded that Anas bin Malik, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allah said:

«أَتِي بَابَ الْجَنَّةِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فَأَسْتَقْتِحُ فَيَقُولُ
الْخَازِنُ: مَنْ أَنْتَ؟ فَأَقُولُ: مُحَمَّدٌ قَالَ: فَيَقُولُ:
بِكَ أَمِرْتُ أَنْ لَا أُفْتَحَ لِأَحَدٍ قَبْلَكَ»

(I will come to the gate of Paradise on the Day of Resurrection and will ask for it to be opened. The gatekeeper will say, "Who are you" I will say "Muhammad." He will say, "I was told about you and that I was not to open the gate for anyone before you.") It was also recorded by Muslim. Imam Ahmad recorded that Abu Hurayrah, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allah said:

«أَوَّلُ زُمْرَةٍ تَلِجُ الْجَنَّةَ، صُورُهُمْ عَلَى صُورَةِ
الْقَمَرِ لَيْلَةَ الْبَدْرِ، لَا يَبْصُقُونَ فِيهَا، وَلَا
يَمْتَخِطُونَ فِيهَا، وَلَا يَتَغَوِّطُونَ فِيهَا، أَنْبِيئُهُمْ
وَأَمْشَاطُهُمُ الذَّهَبُ وَالْفِضَّةُ، وَمَجَامِرُهُمُ الْأَلْوَةُ
وَرَشْحُهُمُ الْمِسْكُ، وَلِكُلِّ وَاحِدٍ مِنْهُمْ زَوْجَتَانِ،

يُرَى مُخٌ سَاقِيهِمَا مِنْ وَرَاءِ اللَّحْمِ مِنَ الْحُسْنِ، لَا
اِخْتِلَافَ بَيْنَهُمْ وَلَا تَبَاغُضَ، قُلُوبُهُمْ عَلَى قَلْبٍ
وَاحِدٍ، يُسَبِّحُونَ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى بُكْرَةً وَعَشِيًّا»

(The first group to enter Paradise will enter looking like the moon on the night when it is full. They will not spit there, or blow their noses, or defecate. Their vessels and combs will be of gold and silver, their censers will be of aloeswood and their sweat will be musk. Each of them will have two wives, the marrow of whose shin bones will be visible from beneath the skin because of their beauty. There will be no disputes between them and there will be no hatred; their hearts will be as if one heart. They will glorify Allah morning and evening.)" This was also recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim. Al-Hafiz Abu Ya` la recorded that Abu Hurayrah, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allah said:

«أَوَّلُ زُمْرَةٍ يَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ عَلَى صُورَةِ الْقَمَرِ
لَيْلَةَ الْبَدْرِ، وَالَّذِينَ يَلُونَهُمْ عَلَى ضَوْءِ أَشَدِّ
كَوْكَبِ دُرِّيٍّ فِي السَّمَاءِ إِضَاءَةً، لَا يَبُولُونَ، وَلَا
يَتَغَوَّطُونَ، وَلَا يَتْفَلُونَ، وَلَا يَمْتَخِطُونَ، أَمْشَاطُهُمْ
الذَّهَبُ، وَرَشْحُهُمْ الْمِسْكُ، وَمَجَامِرُهُمُ اللَّأْوَةُ،
وَأَزْوَاجُهُمُ الْحُورُ الْعَيْنُ، أَخْلَاقُهُمْ عَلَى خُلُقِ
رَجُلٍ وَاحِدٍ، عَلَى صُورَةِ أَبِيهِمْ آدَمَ، سِتُّونَ
ذِرَاعًا فِي السَّمَاءِ»

(The first group to enter Paradise will look like the moon on the night when it is full. They will be followed by a group which looks like the brightest star shining in the sky. They will not urinate or defecate or spit or blow their noses. Their combs will be of gold, their sweat will be musk and their censers will be of aloeswood. Their wives will be Al-Hur Al-`lyn, and they will all look the same, as if they are one person in the image of their father Adam, sixty cubits tall.)" They Al-Bukhari and Muslim(also produced this from the Hadith of Jabir. It was reported that Abu Hurayrah, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allah said:

«يَدْخُلُ الْجَنَّةَ مِنْ أُمَّتِي زُمْرَةً، هُمْ سَبْعُونَ
أَلْفًا، تُضِيءُ وُجُوهُهُمْ إِضَاءَةَ الْقَمَرِ لَيْلَةَ الْبَدْرِ»

(A group of my Ummah, seventy thousand, will enter Paradise with their faces shining like the moon on the night when it is full.) `Ukkashah bin Mihsan stood up and said, `O Messenger of Allah, pray to Allah to make me one of them.' He said,

«اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْهُ مِنْهُمْ»

(O Allah, make him one of them.) Then one of the Ansar stood up and said, `O Messenger of Allah, pray to Allah to make me one of them.' He said,

«سَبَقَكَ بِهَا عُكَّاشَةُ»

(Ukkashah has beaten you to it.)" This was recorded by (Al-Bukhari and Muslim). This Hadith -- about the seventy thousand who will enter Paradise without being brought to account -- was also recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim from Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, Jabir bin `Abdullah, `Imran bin Husayn, Ibn Mas`ud, Rifa`ah bin `Arabah Al-Juhani and Umm Qays bint Mihsan -- may Allah be pleased with them all -- and also from Abu Hazim from Sahl bin Sa`d, may Allah be pleased with them, who said that the Messenger of Allah said:

«لِيَدْخُلَنَّ الْجَنَّةَ مِنْ أُمَّتِي سَبْعُونَ أَلْفًا أَوْ سَبْعُمِائَةٍ
أَلْفٍ آخِذٍ بَعْضُهُمْ يَبْعُضُ، حَتَّى يَدْخُلَ أَوْلَهُمْ
وَأَخِرُهُمُ الْجَنَّةَ، وَجُوهُهُمْ عَلَى صُورَةِ الْقَمَرِ لَيْلَةَ
الْبَدْرِ»

(Seventy thousand or seven hundred thousand of my Ummah will surely enter Paradise, holding on to one another, such that the first and last of them will enter Paradise together, with their faces looking like the moon on the night when it is full.)"

(حَتَّى إِذَا جَاءُوهَا وَفُتِحَتْ أَبْوَابُهَا وَقَالَ لَهُمْ
خَزَنَتُهَا سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ طِبْتُمْ فَادْخُلُوهَا خَالِدِينَ)

(till when they reach it, and its gates will be opened and its keepers will say: "Salam `Alaykum (peace be upon you)! You have done well, so enter here to abide therein forever.") This is a conditional sentence that is not complete. What it implies is that when they come to the gates of Paradise the gates will be opened for them as a sign of honor, and the angelic gatekeepers

will meet them with glad tidings, greetings of peace and praise. Unlike the gatekeepers of Hell who will meet the disbelievers with rebuke and reprimand, the believers will be filled with happiness and joy, each according to his degree of luxury and delights. What happens after this is not mentioned; it is left for the imagination to think of its dearest wishes and be filled with hope. It is known from the Sahih Hadiths that Paradise has eight gates. Imam Ahmad recorded that Abu Hurayrah, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allah said:

«مَنْ أَنْفَقَ زَوْجَيْنِ مِنْ مَالِهِ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى
دُعِيَ مِنْ أَبْوَابِ الْجَنَّةِ، وَلِلْجَنَّةِ أَبْوَابٌ، فَمَنْ كَانَ
مِنْ أَهْلِ الصَّلَاةِ دُعِيَ مِنْ بَابِ الصَّلَاةِ، وَمَنْ
كَانَ مِنْ أَهْلِ الصَّدَقَةِ دُعِيَ مِنْ بَابِ الصَّدَقَةِ،
وَمَنْ كَانَ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْجِهَادِ دُعِيَ مِنْ بَابِ الْجِهَادِ،
وَمَنْ كَانَ مِنْ أَهْلِ الصِّيَامِ دُعِيَ مِنْ بَابِ
الرِّيَّانِ»

(Whoever spends a pair of something from his wealth for the sake of Allah, will be called from the gates of Paradise. Paradise has (several) gates. Whoever is among the people of prayer, will be called from the gate of Prayer; whoever is among the people of charity, will be called from the gate of Charity; whoever is among the people of Jihad, will be called from the gate of Jihad; whoever is among the people of fasting, will be called from the Gate of Ar-Rayyan.)" Abu Bakr said, `O Messenger of Allah, it does not matter from which gate one is called, but will anyone be called from all of them' He said,

«نَعَمْ، وَأَرْجُو أَنْ تَكُونَ مِنْهُمْ»

(Yes, and I hope that you will be one of them.)" Something similar was also recorded by Al-Bukhari and Muslim. It was reported from Sahl bin Sa`d, may Allah be pleased with him, that the Messenger of Allah said:

«إِنَّ فِي الْجَنَّةِ ثَمَانِيَةَ أَبْوَابٍ، بَابٌ مِنْهَا يُسَمَّى
الرِّيَّانَ، لَا يَدْخُلُهُ إِلَّا الصَّائِمُونَ»

(In Paradise there are eight gates; one of them is called Ar-Rayyan, and no one will enter it except those who fast.)" In Sahih Muslim, it is recorded that `Umar bin Al-Khattab, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "The Messenger of Allah said:

«مَا مِنْكُمْ مِنْ أَحَدٍ يَتَوَضَّأُ فَيُبَلِّغُ أَوْ فَيُسْبِغُ
 الوُضُوءَ، ثُمَّ يَقُولُ: أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَنَّ
 مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، إِلَّا فُتِحَتْ لَهُ أَبْوَابُ الْجَنَّةِ
 الثَّمَانِيَةِ، يَدْخُلُ مِنْ أَيِّهَا شَاءَ»

(There is no one among you who performs Wudu' and does it well, or -- amply --, then he says: "I testify that there is none worthy of worship except Allah and that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger, " but the eight gates of Paradise will be opened for him and he will enter through whichever one he wishes.)"

The Width of the Gates of Paradise

We ask Allah to make us among its people. In the Two Sahihs, it is reported from Abu Hurayrah, may Allah be pleased with him, in the lengthy Hadith about intercession (that the Prophet said):

«فَيَقُولُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى: يَا مُحَمَّدُ، أَدْخِلْ مَنْ لَا حِسَابَ
 عَلَيْهِ مِنْ أُمَّتِكَ مِنَ الْبَابِ الْأَيْمَنِ، وَهُمْ شُرَكَاءُ
 النَّاسِ فِي الْأَبْوَابِ الْأُخْرَى، وَالَّذِي نَفْسُ مُحَمَّدٍ
 بِيَدِهِ إِنَّ مَا بَيْنَ الْمِصْرَاعَيْنِ مِنْ مَصَارِيعِ الْجَنَّةِ
 مَا بَيْنَ عِضَادَتِي الْبَابِ لَكَمَا بَيْنَ مَكَّةَ وَهَجَرَ أَوْ
 هَجَرَ وَمَكَّةَ وَفِي رِوَايَةٍ مَكَّةَ وَبُصْرَى»

(Allah will say: "O Muhammad, admit those of your Ummah who are not to be brought to account, through the right-hand gate, and they will be counted among those who will enter from other gates as well." By the One in Whose Hand is the soul of Muhammad, the distance between the two gateposts of the gates of Paradise is like the distance between Makkah and Hajar -- or Hajar and Makkah.)" According to another report: (between Makkah and Busra.) It was recorded in Sahih Muslim from `Utba bin Ghazwan that (the Prophet) gave them a speech in which he told them that the distance between the two gateposts of Paradise was the distance of a forty-year journey, but there would come a day when they would be packed with crowds of people. Allah says,

(وَقَالَ لَهُمْ خَزَنَتُهَا سَلَّمَ عَلَيْكُمْ طِبْتُمْ)

(and its keepers will say: "Salam `Alaykum (peace be upon you)! You have done well,") meaning, `your deeds and words were good, and your efforts were good, and your reward is good.' The Messenger of Allah issued commands during some of his military campaigns that it should be shouted out to the Muslims:

«إِنَّ الْجَنَّةَ لَا يَدْخُلُهَا إِلَّا نَفْسٌ مُسْلِمَةٌ وَفِي رِوَايَةٍ
مُؤْمِنَةٌ»

(No one enters Paradise except a Muslim soul) or, according to one report, (A believing soul.)" Allah says,

(فَادْخُلُوهَا خَالِدِينَ)

(so enter here to abide therein forever.) means, to dwell therein, never seeking any change.

(وَقَالُوا الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي صَدَقَنَا وَعَدَّهُ)

(And they will say: "All the praises and thanks be to Allah Who has fulfilled His promise to us...") means, when the believers see the great reward and splendors, blessing and grand generosity, they will say,

(الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي صَدَقَنَا وَعَدَّهُ)

(All the praises and thanks be to Allah Who has fulfilled His promise to us) meaning, `the promise which He made to us through His Messengers who called us to this in the world.'

(رَبَّنَا وَعَاثِنَا مَا وَعَدْتَنَا عَلَى رُسُلِكَ وَلَا تُخْزِنَا
يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ إِنَّكَ لَا تُخْلِفُ الْمِيعَادَ)

(Our Lord! Grant us what You promised unto us through Your Messengers and disgrace us not on the Day of Resurrection, for You never break (Your) promise)(3:194),

وَقَالُوا الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي هَدَانَا لِهَذَا وَمَا كُنَّا
لِنَهْتَدِيَ لَوْلَا أَنْ هَدَانَا اللَّهُ لَقَدْ جَاءَتْ رُسُلُ رَبِّنَا
بِالْحَقِّ

(and they will say: "All the praises and thanks be to Allah, Who has guided us to this, and never could we have found guidance, were it not that Allah had guided us! Indeed, the Messengers of our Lord came with the truth.") (7:43), and

وَقَالُوا الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَذْهَبَ عَنَّا الْحَزْنَ إِنَّ
رَبَّنَا لَغَفُورٌ شَكُورٌ - الَّذِي أَحَلَّنَا دَارَ الْمُقَامَةِ مِن
فَضْلِهِ لَا يَمَسُّنَا فِيهَا نَصَبٌ وَلَا يَمَسُّنَا فِيهَا لُغُوبٌ
(

(And they will say: "All the praises and thanks be to Allah Who has removed from us (all) grief. Verily, our Lord is indeed Oft-Forgiving, Most Ready to appreciate (good deeds). Who, out of His grace, has lodged us in a home that will last forever, where toil will touch us not nor weariness will touch us.") (35:34-35)

وَأَوْرَثْنَا الْأَرْضَ نَتَّبِعُ مِنْ الْجَنَّةِ حَيْثُ نَشَاءُ
فَنِعْمَ أَجْرُ الْعَمَلِينَ

(and has made us inherit (this) land. We can dwell in Paradise where we will; how excellent a reward for the (pious) workers!) Abu Al-Aliyah, Abu Salih, Qatadah, As-Suddi and Ibn Zayd said, "This means the land of Paradise." This is like the Ayah:

وَلَقَدْ كَتَبْنَا فِي الزَّبُورِ مِنْ بَعْدِ الذِّكْرِ أَنَّ
الْأَرْضَ يَرِثُهَا عِبَادِيَ الصَّالِحُونَ)

(And indeed We have written in Az-Zabur after Adh-Dhikr that My righteous servants shall inherit the land.) (21:105) they will say:

(نَتَّبِعُ مِنْ الْجَنَّةِ حَيْثُ نَشَاءُ)

(We can dwell in Paradise where we will) meaning, 'wherever we want, we can settle; how excellent a reward for our efforts.' In the Two Sahihs, it was reported in the story of the Mi'raj which was narrated by Anas bin Malik, may Allah be pleased with him, that the Prophet said:

«أَدْخِلْتُ الْجَنَّةَ، فَإِذَا فِيهَا جَنَائِدُ اللُّؤْلُؤِ، وَإِذَا تُرَابُهَا الْمِسْكُ»

(I was admitted into Paradise where I saw that its domes were pearls and its soil was musk.)"

وَتَرَى الْمَلَائِكَةَ حَاقِّينَ مِنْ حَوْلِ الْعَرْشِ
يُسَبِّحُونَ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّهِمْ وَقُضِيَ بَيْنَهُمْ بِالْحَقِّ وَقِيلَ
الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ)

(75. And you will see the angels surrounding the Throne from all round, glorifying the praises of their Lord. And they will be judged with truth. And it will be said, "All the praises and thanks be to Allah, the Lord of all that exists.") Allah tells us how He will pass judgement on the people of Paradise and Hell, and put each of them in the place fitting for him and for which he is suited; this is justice from Him and He is never unjust. Then He tells us of His angels who surround His majestic Throne, glorifying the praises of their Lord, extolling and magnifying Him, and declaring Him to be above any shortcomings or injustice whatsoever, for He has passed judgement in the fairest and most just manner. He says:

(وَقُضِيَ بَيْنَهُمْ)

(And they will be judged) meaning, all of creation.

(بِالْحَقِّ)

(with truth.) Then He says:

(وَقِيلَ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ)

(And it will be said, "All the praises and thanks be to Allah, the Lord of all that exists.") meaning, all of creation, whether animate or inanimate, will speak words of praise to Allah, the Lord of all that exists, for His wisdom and justice. These words are not attributed to any specific speaker, which indicates that the whole of creation will testify to His praise. Qatadah said, "Allah began His creation with praise, as He said,

(الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ)

(All praises and thanks be to Allah, Who created the heavens and the earth) (6:1). and He ended it with praise, as He says:

وَقَضَىٰ بَيْنَهُمْ بِالْحَقِّ وَقِيلَ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ
الْعَالَمِينَ

(And they will be judged with truth. And it will be said, "All the praises and thanks be to Allah, the Lord of all that exists.")

The Tafsir of Surah Ghafir

(Chapter - 40)

Which was revealed in Makkah

The Virtues of the Surahs that begin with Ha Mim

Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "Everything has an essence and the essence of the Qur'an is the family of Ha Mim," or he said, "the Ha Mims." Mis`ar bin Kidam said, "They used to be called `the brides.'" All of this was recorded by the Imam, great scholar, Abu `Ubayd Al-Qasim bin Sallam, may Allah have mercy upon him, in his book Fada'il Al-Qur'an. Humayd bin Zanjuyah narrated that `Abdullah, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "The parable of the Qur'an is that of a man who sets out to find a place for his family to stay, and he comes to a place where there is evidence of rainfall. While he is walking about, admiring it, he suddenly comes upon beautiful gardens. He says, `I liked the first traces of rainfall, but this is far better.' It was said to him, `The first place is like the Qur'an, and these beautiful gardens are like the splendor of family of Ha Mim in relation to the rest of the Qur'an.'" This was recorded by Al-Baghawi. Ibn Mas`ud, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "When I reach the family of Ha Mim, it is like reaching a beautiful garden, so I take my time."

(بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ)

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

(حم - تَنْزِيلُ الْكِتَابِ مِنَ اللَّهِ الْعَزِيزِ الْعَلِيمِ -
غَافِرِ الذَّنْبِ وَقَابِلِ التَّوْبِ شَدِيدِ الْعِقَابِ ذِي
الطَّوْلِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ إِلَيْهِ الْمَصِيرُ)

(1. Ha Mim.) (2. The revelation of the Book is from Allah, the Almighty, the All-Knower.) (3. The Forgiver of sin, the Acceptor of repentance, the Severe in punishment, the Bestower. La ilaha illa Huwa, to Him is the final return.) We have already discussed the individual letters at the beginning of Surat Al-Baqarah, and there is no need to repeat the discussion here. In a Hadith recorded by Abu Dawud and At-Tirmidhi from one who heard it from the Messenger of Allah, it says:

«إِنْ بَيْتُمُ اللَّيْلَةَ فَقُولُوا: حَمَّ لَنَا يُنْصَرُونَ»

(When you go to bed tonight, recite Ha Mim, La Yunsarun.)" Its chain of narrators is Sahih.

(تَنْزِيلُ الْكِتَابِ مِنَ اللَّهِ الْعَزِيزِ الْعَلِيمِ)

(The revelation of the Book is from Allah, the Almighty, the All-Knower.) means, this book -- the Qur'an -- is from Allah, the Owner of might and knowledge, Who cannot be overtaken and from Whom nothing is hidden, not even an ant concealed beneath many layers.

(غَافِرِ الذَّنْبِ وَقَابِلِ التَّوْبِ)

(The Forgiver of sin, the Acceptor of repentance,) means, He forgives sins that have been committed in the past, and He accepts repentance for sins that may be committed in the future, from the one who repents and submits to Him.

(شَدِيدِ الْعِقَابِ)

(the Severe in punishment,) means, to the one who persists in transgression and prefers the life of this world, who stubbornly turns away from the commands of Allah and commits sin. This is like the Ayah:

(نَبِّئْ عِبَادِي أَنِّي أَنَا الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ - وَأَنَّ عَذَابِي هُوَ الْعَذَابُ الْأَلِيمُ)

(Declare unto My servants that truly I am the Oft-Forgiving, the Most-Merciful. And that My torment is indeed the most painful torment.) (15:49-50). These two attributes (mercy and punishment) are often mentioned together in the Qur'an, so that people will remain in a state of both hope and fear.

(ذِي الطَّوْلِ)

(the Bestower.) Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "This means He is Generous and Rich (Independent of means)." The meaning is that He is Most Generous to His servants, granting ongoing blessings for which they can never sufficiently thank Him.

(وَإِنْ تَعُدُّوا نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ لَا تُحْصُوهَا)

(And if you would count the favors of Allah, never could you be able to count them...) (16:18).

(لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ)

(La ilaha illa Huwa) means, there is none that is equal to Him in all His attributes; there is no God or Lord besides Him.

(إِلَيْهِ الْمَصِيرُ)

(to Him is the final return.) means, all things will come back to Him and He will reward or punish each person according to his deeds.

(وَهُوَ سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ)

(and He is Swift at reckoning) (13:41).

(مَا يُجَادِلُ فِي آيَاتِ اللَّهِ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فَلَا يَغْرُرُكَ تَقْلُبُهُمْ فِي الْبِلَادِ - كَذَّبَتْ قَبْلَهُمْ قَوْمُ نُوحٍ وَالْأَحْزَابُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ وَهَمَّتْ كُلُّ أُمَّةٍ بِرَسُولِهِمْ لِيَأْخُذُوهُ وَجَادَلُوا بِالْبَاطِلِ لِيُدْحِضُوا بِهِ الْحَقَّ فَأَخَذْتُهُمْ فَكَيْفَ كَانَ عِقَابِ - وَكَذَلِكَ حَقَّتْ كَلِمَةُ رَبِّكَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَنَّهُمْ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ)

(4. None disputes in the Ayat of Allah but those who disbelieve. So let not their ability of going about here and there through the land (for their purposes) deceive you!) (5. The people of Nuh and the groups after them denied before these; and every nation plotted against their Messenger to seize him, and disputed by means of falsehood to refute therewith the truth. So I seized them, and how was My punishment!) (6. Thus has the Word of your Lord been justified against those who disbelieved, that they will be the dwellers of the Fire.)

One of the Attributes of the Disbelievers is That they dispute the Ayat of Allah -- and The Consequences of that Allah tells us that no one rejects or disputes His signs after clear proof has come,

(إِلَّا الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا)

(but those who disbelieve), i.e., those who reject the signs of Allah and His proof and evidence.

فَلَا يَغُرُّكَ تَقَلُّبُهُمْ فِي الْبِلَادِ

(So let not their ability of going about here and there through the land deceive you!) means, their wealth and luxurious life. This is like the Ayah:

لَا يَغُرَّتْكَ تَقَلُّبُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فِي الْبِلَادِ - مَتَّعٌ قَلِيلٌ ثُمَّ مَأْوَاهُمْ جَهَنَّمُ وَبِئْسَ الْمِهَادُ

(Let not the free disposal (and affluence) of the disbelievers throughout the land deceive you. A brief enjoyment; then, their ultimate abode is Hell; and worst indeed is that place for rest.) (3:196-197)

نُمتَّعهم قليلاً ثم نضطرهم إلى عذابٍ غليظٍ

(We let them enjoy for a little while, then in the end We shall oblige them to (enter) a great torment.) (31:24). Then Allah consoles His Prophet Muhammad for the rejection of his people. He tells him that he has an example in the Prophets who came before him, may the blessings and peace of Allah be upon them all, for their nations disbelieved them and opposed them, and only a few believed in them.

كَذَّبَتْ قَبْلَهُمْ قَوْمُ نُوحٍ

(The people of Nuh denied before these;) Nuh was the first Messenger whom Allah sent to denounce and forbid idol worship.

وَالْأَحْزَابُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ

(and the groups after them) means, from every nation.

وَهَمَّتْ كُلُّ أُمَّةٍ بِرَسُولِهِمْ لِيَأْخُذُوهُ

(and every (disbelieving) nation plotted against their Messenger to seize him,) means, they wanted to kill him by any means possible, and some of them did kill their Messenger.

وَجَادَلُوا بِالْبَاطِلِ لِيُدْحِضُوا بِهِ الْحَقَّ

(and disputed by means of falsehood to refute therewith the truth.) means, they came up with specious arguments with which to dispute the truth which was so plain and clear.

(فَأَخَذْتَهُمْ)

(So I seized them) means, 'I destroyed them, because of the sins they committed.'

(فَكَيْفَ كَانَ عِقَابِ)

(and how was My punishment!) means, 'how have you heard that My punishment and vengeance was so severe and painful.' Qatadah said, "It was terrible, by Allah."

(وَكَذَلِكَ حَقَّتْ كَلِمَةُ رَبِّكَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَنَّهُمْ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ)

(Thus has the Word of your Lord been justified against those who disbelieved, that they will be the dwellers of the Fire.) means, 'just as the Word of punishment was justified against those of the past nations who disbelieved, so too is it justified against these disbelievers who have rejected you and gone against you, O Muhammad, and it is even more justified against them, because if they have disbelieved in you, there is no certainty that they will believe in any other Prophet.' And Allah knows best.

(الَّذِينَ يَحْمِلُونَ الْعَرْشَ وَمَنْ حَوْلَهُ يُسَبِّحُونَ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّهِمْ وَيُؤْمِنُونَ بِهِ وَيَسْتَغْفِرُونَ لِلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا رَبَّنَا وَسِعْتَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ رَّحْمَةً وَعِلْمًا فَاغْفِرْ لِلَّذِينَ تَابُوا وَاتَّبَعُوا سَبِيلَكَ وَقِهِمْ عَذَابَ الْجَحِيمِ - رَبَّنَا وَأَدْخِلْهُمْ جَنَّاتِ عَدْنٍ الَّتِي وَعَدْتَهُمْ وَمَنْ صَلَحَ مِنْ ءَابَائِهِمْ وَأَزْوَاجِهِمْ وَذُرِّيَّاتِهِمْ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ - وَقِهِمُ السَّيِّئَاتِ وَمَنْ تَقِ السَّيِّئَاتِ يَوْمَئِذٍ فَقَدْ رَحِمْتَهُ وَذَلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ)

(7. Those (angels) who bear the Throne (of Allah) and those around it glorify the praises of their Lord, and believe in Him, and ask forgiveness for those who believe (saying): "Our Lord!

You comprehend all things in mercy and knowledge, so forgive those who repent and follow Your way, and save them from the torment of the blazing Fire!) (8. Our Lord! And make them enter the `Adn (Eternal) Gardens which you have promised them -- and to the righteous among their fathers, their wives, and their offspring! Verily, You are the Almighty, the All-Wise.) (9. And save them from the sins, and whomsoever You save from the sins that Day, him verily, You have taken into mercy." And that is the supreme success.)

The Bearers of the Throne praise Allah and pray for forgiveness for the Believers

Allah tells us that the angels who are close to Him, the bearers of the Throne, and the angels who are around Him -- all glorify the praises of their Lord. They combine glorification (Tasbih) which implies that He is free of any shortcomings, with praise (Tahmid) which is an affirmation of praise.

(وَيُؤْمِنُونَ بِهِ)

(and believe in Him,) means, they humbly submit themselves before Him.

(وَيَسْتَغْفِرُونَ لِلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا)

(and ask forgiveness for those who believe) means, for those among the people of earth who believe in the Unseen. Allah commanded that His angels who are close to Him should pray for the believers in their absence, so it is a part of the angels' nature that they say Amin when a believer prays for his brother in his absence. In Sahih Muslim it says:

«إِذَا دَعَا الْمُسْلِمُ لِأَخِيهِ بِظَهْرِ الْغَيْبِ قَالَ الْمَلَكُ:
أَمِينَ وَكَ بِمِثْلِهِ»

(When a Muslim prays for his brother in his absence, the angel says, `Amin, and may you have something similar to it'.)" Shahr bin Hawshab said, "The bearers of the Throne are eight; four of them say, `Glory and praise be to You, O Allah, to You be praise for Your forbearance after Your knowledge. ' Four of them say, `Glory and praise be to You, O Allah, to You be praise for Your forgiveness after Your power.' When they pray for forgiveness for those who believe, they say:

(رَبَّنَا وَسِعْتَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ رَّحْمَةً وَعِلْمًا)

(Our Lord! You comprehend all things in mercy and knowledge,) meaning, `Your mercy encompasses their sins and Your knowledge encompasses all their deeds, words and action.'

(فَاغْفِرْ لِلَّذِينَ تَابُوا وَاتَّبَعُوا سَبِيلَكَ)

(so forgive those who repent and follow Your way.)" That is, `forgive the sinners when they repent to You and turn to You and give up their former ways, following Your commands to do good and abstain from evil.'

(وَقِهِمْ عَذَابَ الْجَحِيمِ)

(and save them from the torment of the blazing Fire!) means, `snatch them away from the punishment of Hell, which is a painful, agonizing punishment.'

(رَبَّنَا وَأَدْخِلْهُمْ جَنَّاتِ عَدْنِ الَّتِي وَعَدْتَهُمْ وَمَنْ صَلَحَ مِنْ آبَائِهِمْ وَأَزْوَاجِهِمْ وَذُرِّيَّاتِهِمْ)

(Our Lord! And make them enter the `Adn (Eternal) Gardens which you have promised them -- and to the righteous among their fathers, their wives, and their offspring!) meaning, `bring them together so that they may find delight in one another in neighboring dwellings.' This is like the Ayah:

(وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَاتَّبَعَتْهُمْ ذُرِّيَّتُهُمْ بِإِيمَانٍ أَلْحَقْنَا بِهِمْ ذُرِّيَّتَهُمْ وَمَا أَلْتَنَّهُمْ مِّنْ عَمَلِهِمْ مِّنْ شَيْءٍ)

(And those who believe and whose offspring follow them in faith, -- to them shall We join their offspring, and We shall not decrease the reward of their deeds in anything)(52:21). This means, `that all of them will be made equal in status. In this way they may delight in one another's company; the one who is in the higher status will not lose anything. On the contrary We will raise the one whose deeds are of a lower status so that they will become equal, as a favor and a blessing from Us.' Sa`id bin Jubayr said that when the believer enters Paradise, he will ask where his father, son and brother are. It will be said to him, `they did not reach the same level of good deeds as you did'. He will say, `but I did it for my sake and for theirs.' Then they will be brought to join him in that higher degree. Then Sa`id bin Jubayr recited this Ayah:

(رَبَّنَا وَأَدْخِلْهُمْ جَنَّاتِ عَدْنِ الَّتِي وَعَدْتَهُمْ وَمَنْ صَلَحَ مِنْ آبَائِهِمْ وَأَزْوَاجِهِمْ وَذُرِّيَّاتِهِمْ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ)

(Our Lord! And make them enter the `Adn (Eternal) Gardens which you have promised them -- and to the righteous among their fathers, their wives, and their offspring! Verily, You are the Almighty, the All-Wise.) Mutarrif bin `Abdullah bin Ash-Shikhkhir said, "The most sincere of the servants of Allah towards the believers are the angels." Then he recited this Ayah:

(رَبَّنَا وَأَدْخِلْهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ الَّتِي وَعَدْتَهُمْ)

(Our Lord! And make them enter the `Adn (Eternal) Paradises which you have promised them) He then said, "The most treacherous of the servants of Allah towards the believers are the Shayatin."

(إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ)

(You are the Almighty, the All-Wise.) means, `the One Whom none can resist or overwhelm; what You will happens and what You do not will does not happen; You are Wise in all that You say and do, in all that You legislate and decree.'

(وَقِهِمُ السَّيِّئَاتِ)

(And save them from the sins,) means, the actions and the consequences.

(وَمَنْ تَقِ السَّيِّئَاتِ يَوْمَئِذٍ)

(and whomsoever You save from the sins that Day,) means, the Day of Resurrection,

(فَقَدْ رَحِمْتَهُ)

(him verily, You have taken into mercy.) means, `You have protected him and saved him from punishment.'

(وَذَلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ)

(And that is the supreme success.)

(إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا يُنَادُونَ لِمَقْتِ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ مِنْ
مَقْتِكُمْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ إِذْ تُدْعَوْنَ إِلَى الْإِيمَانِ فَتَكْفُرُونَ -
قَالُوا رَبَّنَا آمَنَّا ائْتِنَّا وَأَحْيَيْتَنَا ائْتِنَّا فَأَعْتِرَفْنَا
بِدُنُوبِنَا فَهَلْ إِلَى خُرُوجٍ مِّنْ سَبِيلٍ - ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّهُ إِذَا
دُعِيَ اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ كَفَرْتُمْ وَإِنْ يُشْرَكَ بِهِ تُؤْمِنُوا

فَالْحُكْمُ لِلَّهِ الْعَلِيِّ الْكَبِيرِ - هُوَ الَّذِي يُرِيكُمْ آيَاتِهِ
وَيُنزِلُ لَكُمْ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ رِزْقًا وَمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ إِلَّا مَنْ
يُنِيبُ - فَادْعُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ
الْكَافِرُونَ)

(10. Those who disbelieve will be addressed: "Indeed, Allah's aversion was greater towards you than your aversion toward yourselves, when you were called to the Faith but you used to refuse.") (11. They will say: "Our Lord! You have made us to die twice, and You have given us life twice! Now we confess our sins, then is there any way to get out") (12. (It will be said): "This is because, when Allah Alone was invoked, you disbelieved; but when partners were joined to Him, you believed! So the judgement is only with Allah, the Most High, the Most Great!") (13. It is He Who shows you His Ayat and sends down provision for you from the sky. And none remembers but those who turn in repentance.) (14. So, call you upon Allah making religion sincerely for Him, however much the disbelievers may hate.)

The Regret of the Disbelievers after They enter Hell

Allah tells us that the disbelievers will feel regret on the Day of Resurrection, when they enter Hell and sink in the agonizing depth of fire. When they actually experience the unbearable punishment of Allah, they will hate themselves with the utmost hatred, because of the sins they committed in the past, which were the cause of their entering the Fire. At that point the angels will tell them in a loud voice that Allah's hatred towards them in this world, when Faith was offered to them and they rejected it, is greater than their hatred towards themselves in this situation. Qatadah said, concerning the Ayah:

(لَمَقْتُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ مِنْ مَقَّتِكُمْ أَنْفُسَكُمْ إِذْ تُدْعَوْنَ
إِلَى الْإِيمَانِ فَتَكْفُرُونَ)

(Indeed, Allah's aversion was greater towards you than your aversion toward yourselves, when you were called to the Faith but you used to refuse.) "Allah's hatred for the people of misguidance -- when Faith is presented to them in this world, and they turn away from it and refuse to accept it -- is greater than their hatred for themselves when they see the punishment of Allah with their own eyes on the Day of Resurrection." This was also the view of Al-Hasan Al-Basri, Mujahid, As-Suddi, Dharr bin `Ubaydullah Al-Hamdani, `Abdur-Rahman bin Zayd bin Aslam and Ibn Jarir At-Tabari, may Allah have mercy on them all.

(قَالُوا رَبَّنَا أَمَنَّاتْنَا اثْنَتَيْنِ وَأَحْيَيْتَنَا اثْنَتَيْنِ)

(They will say: "Our Lord! You have made us to die twice, and You have given us life twice!...") Ath-Thawri narrated from Abu Ishaq from Abu Al-Ahwas from Ibn Mas`ud, may Allah be pleased with him: "This Ayah is like the Ayah:

(كَيْفَ تَكْفُرُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَكُنْتُمْ أَمْوَاتًا فَأَحْيَاكُمْ ثُمَّ
يُمِيتُكُمْ ثُمَّ يُحْيِيكُمْ ثُمَّ إِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ)

(How can you disbelieve in Allah Seeing that you were dead and He gave you life. Then He will give you death, then again will bring you to life and then unto Him you will return.)"(2:28) This was also the view of Ibn `Abbas, Ad-Dahhak, Qatadah and Abu Malik. This is undoubtedly the correct view. What is meant by all of this is that when they are standing before Allah in the arena of Resurrection, the disbelievers will ask to go back, as Allah says:

(وَلَوْ تَرَىٰ إِذِ الْمُجْرِمُونَ نَاكِسُوا رُءُوسِهِمْ عِندَ
رَبِّهِمْ رَبَّنَا أَبْصَرْنَا وَسَمِعْنَا فَارْجِعْنَا نَعْمَلْ
صَالِحًا إِنَّا مُوقِنُونَ)

(And if you only could see when the criminals shall hang their heads before their Lord (saying): "Our Lord! We have now seen and heard, so send us back, that we will do righteous good deeds. Verily, we now believe with certainty.") (32:12), However, they will get no response. Then when they see the Fire and they are held over it and they look at the punishments therein, they will ask even more fervently than before to go back, but they will get no response. Allah says:

(وَلَوْ تَرَىٰ إِذِ وَقِفُوا عَلَى النَّارِ فَقَالُوا يَا لَيْتَنَا نُرَدُّ
وَلَا نُكَذِّبُ بآيَاتِ رَبِّنَا وَنَكُونُ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ - بَلْ
بَدَأ لَهُمْ مَا كَانُوا يُخْفُونَ مِنْ قَبْلُ وَلَوْ رُدُّوا لَعَدُّوا
لِمَا نُهُوا عَنْهُ وَإِنَّهُمْ لَكَاذِبُونَ)

(If you could but see when they will be held over the (Hell) Fire! They will say: "Would that we were but sent back (to the world)! Then we would not deny the Ayat of our Lord, and we would be of the believers!" Nay, it has become manifest to them what they had been concealing before. But if they were returned, they would certainly revert to that which they were forbidden. And indeed they are liars.) (6:27-28). When they actually enter Hell and have a taste of its heat, hooked rods of iron and chains, their plea to go back will be at its most desperate and fervent:

وَهُمْ يَصْطَرِحُونَ فِيهَا رَبَّنَا أَخْرِجْنَا نَعْمَلْ
صَالِحًا غَيْرَ الَّذِي كُنَّا نَعْمَلُ أَوَلَمْ نُعَمِّرْكُم مَّا
يَتَذَكَّرُ فِيهِ مَنْ تَذَكَّرَ وَجَاءَكُمُ النَّذِيرُ فَذُوقُوا فَمَا
لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِنْ نَصِيرٍ)

(Therein they will cry: "Our Lord! Bring us out, we shall do righteous good deeds, not that we used do." (Allah will reply): "Did We not give you lives long enough, so that whosoever would receive admonition could receive it And the warner came to you. So taste you. For the wrongdoers there is no helper.") (35:37)

رَبَّنَا أَخْرِجْنَا مِنْهَا فَإِنْ عُدْنَا فَإِنَّا ظَالِمُونَ - قَالَ
اخْسِئُوا فِيهَا وَلَا تُكَلِّمُونِ)

(Our Lord! Bring us out of this. If ever we return (to evil), then indeed we shall be wrongdoers." He (Allah) will say: "Remain you in it with ignominy! And speak you not to Me!) (23:108). According to this Ayah, they will speak more eloquently, and they will introduce their plea with the words:

رَبَّنَا أَمَّنَّا إِيَّاكَ وَأَحْيَيْتَنَا وَأَمَاتَنَا وَتَوَلَّيْنَا إِنَّكَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ)

(Our Lord! You have made us to die twice, and You have given us life twice!) meaning, `by Your almighty power, You have brought us to life after we were dead, then You caused us to die after we were alive; You are able to do whatever You will. We confess our sins and admit that we wronged ourselves in the world,'

فَهَلْ إِلَىٰ خُرُوجٍ مِّن سَبِيلٍ)

(then is there any way to get out) means, `will You answer our prayer to send us back to the world, for You are able to do that, so that we might do deeds different from those which we used to do Then if we go back to our former ways, we will indeed be wrongdoers.' The response will be: `There is no way for you to go back to the world.' Then the reason for that will be given: `Your nature will not accept the truth and be governed by it, you would reject it and ignore it.' Allah says:

ذَلِكُمْ بِأَنَّهُ إِذَا دُعِيَ اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ كَفَرْتُمْ وَإِنْ
يُشْرَكَ بِهِ تَوَمَّنُوا)

((It will be said): "This is because, when Allah Alone was invoked (in worship), you disbelieved; but when partners were joined to Him, you believed!") meaning, 'if you were to go back, this is how you would be.' This is like the Ayah:

(وَلَوْ رُدُّوْا لَعَدُوْا لِمَا نُهَوْا عَنْهُ وَانَّهُمْ لَكٰذِبُوْنَ)

(But if they were returned (to the world), they would certainly revert to that when they were forbidden. And indeed they are liars) (6:28).

(فَالْحُكْمُ لِلّٰهِ الْعَلِيِّ الْكَبِيْرِ)

(So the judgement is only with Allah, the Most High, the Most Great!) means, He is the Judge of His creation, the Just Who is never unjust. He guides whomsoever He wills and sends astray whomsoever He wills; He has mercy on whomsoever He wills and punishes whomsoever He wills; there is no God except Him.

(هُوَ الَّذِي يُرِيكُمْ اٰيٰتِهٖ)

(It is He Who shows you His Ayat) means, He demonstrates His power to His servants through the mighty signs which they see in His creation, above and below, which indicate the perfection of its Creator and Originator.

(وَيُنَزِّلُ لَكُمْ مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ رِزْقًا)

(and sends down provision for you from the sky.) this refers to rain, through which crops and fruits are brought forth, which with their different colors, tastes, fragrances and forms are a sign of the Creator. It is one kind of water, but by His great power He makes all these things different.

(وَمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ)

(And none remembers) means, no one learns a lesson or is reminded by these things, or takes them as a sign of the might of the Creator,

(اِلَّا مَن يُّنِيْبُ)

(but those who turn in repentance.) which means, those who have insight and turn to Allah, may He be blessed and exalted.

The Believers are commanded to worship Allah Alone no matter what Their Circumstances

فَادْعُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْكَافِرُونَ)

(So, call you upon Allah making religion sincerely for Him, however much the disbelievers may hate.) This means, worship Allah and call upon Him alone in all sincerity. Do not be like the idolators in conduct and beliefs. Imam Ahmad recorded that after ending every prayer, `Abdullah bin Az-Zubayr used to say: "There is no (true) God except Allah Alone with no partner or associate, His is the dominion and praise, for He is able to do all things; there is no strength and no power except with Allah; there is no (true) God except Allah and we worship none but Him; to Him belongs the blessings and the virtue and good praise; there is no (true) God except Allah, we worship Him in all sincerity even though the disbelievers may hate that." He said, "The Messenger of Allah used to say Tahlil with this after every prayer." Something similar was also recorded by Muslim, Abu Dawud and An-Nasa'i. It was reported in Sahih from Ibn Az-Zubayr, may Allah be pleased with him, that the Messenger of Allah used to say the following after the prescribed (obligatory) prayers:

«لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَلَهُ
الْحَمْدُ، وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ، لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا
قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ، لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ، وَلَا نَعْبُدُ إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ، لَهُ
النِّعْمَةُ وَلَهُ الْفَضْلُ وَلَهُ الثَّنَاءُ الْحَسَنُ، لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
اللَّهُ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْكَافِرُونَ»

(There is no (true) God except Allah Alone with no partner or associate, His is the dominion and praise, for He is able to do all things; there is no strength and no power except with Allah; there is no (true) God except Allah and we worship none but Him; His is the blessing and virtue and good praise; there is no (true) God except Allah, we worship Him in all sincerity even though the disbelievers hate that.)

(رَفِيعُ الدَّرَجَاتِ ذُو الْعَرْشِ يُلْقِي الرُّوحَ مِنْ
أَمْرِهِ عَلَى مَنْ يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ لِيُنذِرَ يَوْمَ التَّلَاقِ
- يَوْمَ هُمْ بَارِزُونَ لَا يَخْفَى عَلَى اللَّهِ مِنْهُمْ شَيْءٌ
لَمَنْ الْمُلْكُ الْيَوْمَ لِلَّهِ الْوَاحِدِ الْقَهَّارِ - الْيَوْمَ نُجْزِي

كُلُّ نَفْسٍ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ لَا ظَلَمَ الْيَوْمَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَرِيعُ
الْحِسَابِ)

(15. (He is Allah) Owner of high ranks and degrees, the Owner of the Throne. He sends the revelation by His command to any of His servants He wills, that he may warn of the Day of Mutual Meeting.) (16. The Day when they will come out, nothing of them will be hidden from Allah. Whose is the kingdom this Day It is Allah's, the One, the Irresistible!) (17. This Day shall every person be recompensed for what he earned. This Day no injustice. Truly, Allah is swift in reckoning.)

Allah sends the Revelation to warn His Servants of the Day of Mutual Meeting

Allah tells us of His might and pride, and that His Mighty Throne is raised above all of His creation like a roof. This is like the Ayah:

(مَنْ اللَّهُ ذِي الْمَعَارِجِ - تَعْرُجُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ
إِلَيْهِ فِي يَوْمٍ كَانَ مِقْدَارُهُ خَمْسِينَ أَلْفَ سَنَةٍ)

(From Allah, the Lord of the ways of ascent. The angels and the Ruh (Jibril) ascend to Him in a Day the measure whereof is fifty thousand years.) (70:3-4). If Allah wills, we will discuss below which is the most correct view the distance between the Throne and the seventh earth according to a group of earlier and later scholars. More than one scholar said that the Throne is made of red rubies. The width between two corners of it is the distance of a fifty thousand year long journey and its height above the seventh earth is the distance of a fifty thousand years long journey.

(يُلْقِي الرُّوحَ مِنْ أَمْرِهِ عَلَى مَنْ يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ)

(He sends the revelation of His command to any of His servants He wills,) This is like the Ayat:

(يُنزِّلُ الْمَلَائِكَةَ بِالرُّوحِ مِنْ أَمْرِهِ عَلَى مَنْ يَشَاءُ
مِنْ عِبَادِهِ أَنْ أَنْذِرُوا أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاتَّقُونِ)

(He sends down the angels with the Ruh (revelation) of His command to whom of His servants He wills (saying): "Warn mankind that none has the right to be worshipped but I, so have Taqwa of Me.") (16:2), and

وَإِنَّهُ لَتَنْزِيلُ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ - نَزَلَ بِهِ الرُّوحُ
الْأَمِينُ - عَلَى قَلْبِكَ لِتَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُنذِرِينَ)

(And truly, this is a revelation from the Lord of all that exists, Which the trustworthy Ruh (Jibril) has brought down Upon your heart that you may be (one) of the warners.) (26:192-194) Allah says:

(لِيُنذِرَ يَوْمَ التَّلَاقِ)

(that he may warn (men) of the Day of Mutual Meeting.) `Ali bin Abi Talhah reported that Ibn `Abbas said: "The Day of Mutual Meeting is one of the names of the Day of Resurrection, of which Allah warns His servants." That is the Day when everyone will find out about his deeds, good and bad.

(يَوْمَ هُمْ بَارِزُونَ لَا يَخْفَى عَلَى اللَّهِ مِنْهُمْ شَيْءٌ)

(The Day when they will come out, nothing of them will be hidden from Allah.) means, they will all appear in the open, with nothing to give them shelter or shade, or cover them. Allah says:

(يَوْمَ هُمْ بَارِزُونَ لَا يَخْفَى عَلَى اللَّهِ مِنْهُمْ شَيْءٌ)

(The Day when they will come out, nothing of them will be hidden from Allah.) meaning, everything will be equally known to Him.

(لَمَنَ الْمَلِكُ الْيَوْمَ لِلَّهِ الْوَاحِدِ الْقَهَّارِ)

(Whose is the kingdom this Day It is Allah's, the One, the Irresistible!) We have already mentioned the Hadith of Ibn `Umar, may Allah be pleased with him, that Allah will roll up the heavens and the earth in His Hand and will say,

«أَنَا الْمَلِكُ، أَنَا الْجَبَّارُ، أَنَا الْمُتَكَبِّرُ، أَيْنَ مُلُوكُ
الْأَرْضِ؟ أَيْنَ الْجَبَّارُونَ؟ أَيْنَ الْمُتَكَبِّرُونَ؟»

("I am the King, I am the Compeller, I am the Proud, where are the kings of the earth Where are the tyrants Where are the proud") In the Hadith about the Trumpet, it says that Allah will take the souls of all of His creatures, and there will be none left but Him Alone, with no partner or associate. Then He will say, "Whose is the kingdom today" three times, and He will answer Himself by saying,

(لِلَّهِ الْوَحْدِ الْقَهَّارِ)

(It is Allah's, the One, the Irresistible!) meaning, He is the Only One Who has subjugated all things.

(الْيَوْمَ تُجْزَى كُلُّ نَفْسٍ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ لَا ظُلْمَ الْيَوْمَ
إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ)

(This Day shall every person be recompensed for what he earned. This Day no injustice (shall be done to anybody). Truly, Allah is swift in reckoning.) Here Allah tells us of His justice when He judges between His creation; He does not do even a speck of dust's weight of injustice, whether it be for good or for evil. For every good deed He gives a tenfold reward and for every bad deed He gives recompense of one bad deed. Allah says:

(لَا ظُلْمَ الْيَوْمَ)

(This Day no injustice (shall be done to anybody).) It was reported in Sahih Muslim from Abu Dharr, may Allah be pleased with him, that the Messenger of Allah said that Allah said:

«يَا عِبَادِي إِنِّي حَرَّمْتُ الظُّلْمَ عَلَى نَفْسِي
وَجَعَلْتُهُ بَيْنَكُمْ مُحَرَّمًا فَلَا تَظَالَمُوا إِلَى أَنْ قَالَ يَا
عِبَادِي إِنَّمَا هِيَ أَعْمَالُكُمْ أَحْصِيهَا عَلَيْكُمْ ثُمَّ
أَوْقِيكُمْ إِيَّاهَا، فَمَنْ وَجَدَ خَيْرًا فَلْيَحْمَدِ اللَّهَ تَبَارَكَ
وَتَعَالَى، وَمَنْ وَجَدَ غَيْرَ ذَلِكَ فَلَا يُلُومَنَّ إِلَّا
نَفْسَهُ»

("O My servants, I have forbidden injustice for Myself, and made it unlawful for you, so do not commit injustice to one another ...") up to: ("O My servants, these are your deeds, I record them for you then I will recompense you for them. Whoever finds something good, let him give praise to Allah, and whoever finds something other than that, let him blame no one but himself.")

(إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ)

(Truly, Allah is swift in reckoning.) means, He will bring all His creation to account as if He is bringing just one person to account. This is like the Ayah:

(مَا خَلَقَكُمْ وَلَا بَعَثَكُمْ إِلَّا كَنَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ)

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

(وَمَا أَمْرُنَا إِلَّا وَاحِدَةٌ كَلَمْحٍ بِالْبَصَرِ)

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

(وَأَنْذِرْهُمْ يَوْمَ الْأُزْفَةِ إِذِ الْقُلُوبُ لَدَى الْحَنَاجِرِ
كَظْمِينَ مَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِنْ حَمِيمٍ وَلَا شَفِيعٍ يُطَاعُ -
يَعْلَمُ خَائِنَةَ الْأَعْيُنِ وَمَا تُخْفِي الصُّدُورُ - وَاللَّهُ
يَقْضِي بِالْحَقِّ وَالَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِهِ لَا
يَقْضُونَ شَيْءًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ)

(18. And warn them of the Day that is drawing near, when the hearts will be at the throats Kazimin. There will be no friend, nor an intercessor for the wrongdoers, who could be given heed to.) (19. Allah knows the fraud of the eyes, and all that the breasts conceal.) (20. And Allah judges with truth, while those to whom they invoke besides Him, cannot judge anything. Certainly, Allah! He is the All-Hearer, the All-Seer.)

Warning of the Day of Resurrection and Allah's judgement on that Day

The Day that is drawing near' is one of the names of the Day of Judgement. It is so called because it is close, as Allah says:

(أُزِفَتِ الْأُزْفَةُ - لَيْسَ لَهَا مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ كَاشِفَةٌ)

(The Day of Resurrection draws near. None besides Allah can avert it) (53:57-58)

(اقْتَرَبَتِ السَّاعَةُ وَانْشَقَّ الْقَمَرُ)

(The Hour has drawn near, and the moon has been cleft asunder) (54:1)

(اَقْتَرَبَ لِلنَّاسِ حِسَابُهُمْ)

(Draws near for mankind their reckoning) (21:1),

(أَتَى أَمْرُ اللَّهِ فَلَا تَسْتَعْجِلُوهُ)

(The Event (the Hour) ordained by Allah will come to pass, so seek not to hasten it) (16:1),

(فَلَمَّا رَأَوْهُ زُلْفَةً سَيِّئَتْ وُجُوهُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا)

(But when they will see it approaching, the faces of those who disbelieve will change and turn black with sadness and in grief) (67:27), and

(إِذِ الْقُلُوبُ لَدَى الْحَنَاجِرِ كَظْمِينَ)

(when the hearts will be at the throats Kazimin.) Qatadah said, "When the hearts reach the throats because of fear, and they will neither come out nor go back to their places." This was also the view of `Ikrimah, As-Suddi and others.

(كَظْمِينَ)

(Kazimin) means silent, for no one will speak without His permission:

(يَوْمَ يَقُومُ الرُّوحُ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ صَفًّا لَا يَتَكَلَّمُونَ إِلَّا
مَنْ أذِنَ لَهُ الرَّحْمَنُ وَقَالَ صَوَابًا)

(The Day that Ar-Ruh (Jibril) and the angels will stand forth in rows, they will not speak except him whom the Most Gracious allows, and he will speak what is right.) (78:38). Ibn Jurayj said:

(كَظْمِينَ)

(Kazimin) "It means weeping."

(مَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِنْ حَمِيمٍ وَلَا شَفِيعٍ يُطَاعُ)

(There will be no friend, nor an intercessor for the wrongdoers, who could be given heed to.) means, those who wronged themselves by associating others in worship with Allah, will have no relative to help them and no intercessor who can plead on their behalf; all means of good will be cut off from them.

(يَعْلَمُ خَائِنَةَ الْأَعْيُنِ وَمَا تُخْفِي الصُّدُورُ)

(Allah knows the fraud of the eyes, and all that the breasts conceal.) Allah tells us about His complete knowledge which encompasses all things, great and small, major and minor, so that people will take note that He knows about them and they will have the proper sense of shyness before Allah. They will pay attention to the fact that He can see them, for He knows the fraud of the eyes, even if the eyes look innocent, and He knows what the hearts conceal. Ad-Dahhak said:

(خَائِنَةَ الْأَعْيُنِ)

(the fraud of the eyes,) "A wink and a man saying that he has seen something when he has not seen it, or saying that he has not seen it when he did see it." Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "Allah knows when the eye looks at something, whether it wants to commit an act of betrayal or not." This was also the view of Mujahid and Qatadah. Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, commented on the Ayah:

(وَمَا تُخْفِي الصُّدُورُ)

(and all that the breasts conceal.) "He knows, if you were able to, whether you would commit Zina with a woman or not." As-Suddi said:

(وَمَا تُخْفِي الصُّدُورُ)

(and all that the breasts conceal.) meaning, of insinuating whispers.

(وَاللَّهُ يَقْضِي بِالْحَقِّ)

(And Allah judges with truth,) means, He judges with justice. Al-A` mash narrated from Sa`id bin Jubayr from Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, that this Ayah means: "He is able to reward those who do good with good and those who do evil with evil."

(إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ)

(Certainly, Allah! He is the All-Hearer, the All-Seer.) This is how it was interpreted by Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him. This is like the Ayah:

(لِيَجْزِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسَاءُوا بِمَا عَمِلُوا وَيَجْزِيَ الَّذِينَ أَحْسَنُوا بِالْحُسْنَى)

(that He may requite those who do evil with that which they have done, and reward those who do good, with what is best) (53:31).

(وَالَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِهِ)

(while those to whom they invoke besides Him,) means, the idols and false gods,

(لَا يَقْضُونَ بِشَيْءٍ)

(cannot judge anything.) means, they do not possess anything and they cannot judge anything.

(إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ)

(Certainly, Allah! He is the All-Hearer, the All-Seer.) means, He hears all that His creatures say and He knows all about them, so He guides whomsoever He wills and sends astray whomsoever He wills. And He judges with perfect justice in all of that.

(أَوَلَمْ يَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَيَنْظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ
عَاقِبَةُ الَّذِينَ كَانُوا مِن قَبْلِهِمْ كَانُوا هُمْ أَشَدَّ مِنْهُمْ
قُوَّةً وَءَاتَاراً فِي الْأَرْضِ فَأَخَذَهُمُ اللَّهُ بِذُنُوبِهِمْ
وَمَا كَانَ لَهُم مِّنَ اللَّهِ مِن وَّاقٍ - ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ كَانَتْ
تَأْتِيهِمْ رُسُلُهُم بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ فَكَفَرُوا فَأَخَذَهُمُ اللَّهُ إِنَّهُ
قَوِيٌّ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ)

(21. Have they not traveled in the land and seen what was the end of those who were before them They were superior to them in strength, and in the traces in the land. But Allah seized them with punishment for their sins. And none had they to protect them from Allah.) (22. That was because there came to them their Messengers with clear evidences but they disbelieved (in them). So Allah seized them. Verily, He is All-Strong, Severe in punishment.)

The Severe Punishment for the Disbelievers

(أَوَلَمْ يَسِيرُوا)

(Have they not traveled), `these people who disbelieve in your Message, O Muhammad,'

(فِي الْأَرْضِ فَيَنْظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الَّذِينَ
كَانُوا مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ)

(in the land and seen what was the end of those who were before them) means, the nations of the past who disbelieved in their Prophets (peace be upon them), for which the punishment came upon them even though they were stronger than Quraysh.

(وَأَثَاراً فِي الْأَرْضِ)

(and in the traces in the land.) means, they left behind traces in the earth, such as structures, buildings and dwellings which these people)i.e., the Quraysh(cannot match. This is like the Ayat:

(وَلَقَدْ مَكَّنَّهُمْ فِيْمَا إِن مَّكَّنَّاكُمْ فِيهِ)

(And indeed We had firmly established them with that wherewith We have not established you!) (46:26)

(وَأَتَّارُوا الْأَرْضَ وَعَمَرُوهَا أَكْثَرَ مِمَّا عَمَرُوهَا)

(and they tilled the earth and populated it in greater numbers than these have done) (30:9). Yet despite this great strength, Allah punished them for their sin, which was their disbelief in their Messengers.

(وَمَا كَانَ لَهُمْ مِّنَ اللَّهِ مِن وَّاقٍ)

(And none had they to protect them from Allah.) means, they had no one who could protect them or ward off the punishment from them. Then Allah mentions the reason why He punished them, and the sins which they committed. Allah says:

(ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ كَانَتْ تَأْتِيهِمْ رُسُلُهُمْ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ)

(That was because there came to them their Messengers with clear evidences) meaning with clear proof and definitive evidence.

(فَكَفَرُوا)

(but they disbelieved.) means, despite all these signs, they disbelieved and rejected the Message.

(فَأَخَذَهُمُ اللَّهُ)

(So Allah seized them.) means, He destroyed them utterly, and a similar fate awaits the disbelievers.

(إِنَّهُ قَوِيٌّ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ)

(Verily, He is All-Strong, Severe in punishment) means, He is possessed of great strength and might.

(شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ)

(Severe in punishment,) means, His punishment is severe and agonizing; we seek refuge with Allah, may He be blessed and exalted, from that.

(وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا مُوسَىٰ بِآيَاتِنَا وَسُلْطَانٍ مُّبِينٍ - إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ وَهَمَانَ وَقَارُونَ فَقَالُوا سَحِرٌ كَذَّابٌ - فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُم بِالْحَقِّ مِنْ عِنْدِنَا قَالُوا اقْتُلُوا أَبْنَاءَ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مَعَهُ وَاسْتَحْيُوا نِسَاءَهُمْ وَمَا كَيْدُ الْكٰفِرِينَ إِلَّا فِي ضَلٰلٍ - وَقَالَ فِرْعَوْنُ ذَرُونِي أَقْتُلْ مُوسَىٰ وَلْيَدْعُ رَبَّهُ إِنِّي أَخَافُ أَنْ يُبَدِّلَ دِينَكُمْ أَوْ أَنْ يُظْهِرَ فِي الْأَرْضِ الْفَسَادَ - وَقَالَ مُوسَىٰ إِنِّي عُذْتُ بِرَبِّي وَرَبِّكُمْ مِنْ كُلِّ مُتَكَبِّرٍ لَا يُؤْمِنُ بِيَوْمِ الْحِسَابِ)

(23. And indeed We sent Musa with Our Ayat, and a manifest authority,) (24. To Fir`awn, Haman and Qarun, but they called (him): "A sorcerer, a liar!") (25. Then, when he brought them the Truth from Us, they said: "Kill with him the sons of those who believe and let their women live;" but the plots of disbelievers are nothing but in vain!) (26. Fir`awn said: "Leave me to kill Musa, and let him call his Lord! I fear that he may change your religion, or that he may cause mischief to appear in the land!") (27. Musa said: "Verily, I seek refuge in my Lord and your Lord from every arrogant who believes not in the Day of Reckoning!")

The Story of Musa and Fir`awn

Allah consoles His Prophet Muhammad for the disbelief of his people and gives him the glad tidings of good consequences and victory in this world and the Hereafter, as happened to Musa bin `Imran, peace be upon him, whom Allah sent with clear proof and definitive evidence. Allah says:

(بَايَتِنَا وَسُلْطَانٍ مُّبِينٍ)

(with Our Ayat, and a manifest authority). Authority means proof and evidence.

(إِلَى فِرْعَوْنَ)

(to Fir`awn), who was the king of the Copts of Egypt.

(وَهَمَانَ)

(Haman) who was his adviser.

(وَقَارُونَ)

(and Qarun) who was the richest trader among the people of his time.

(فَقَالُوا سَحِرٌ كَذَّابٌ)

(but they called (him): "A sorcerer, liar!") means, they rejected him and thought he was a sorcerer, a madman and an illusionist who was telling lies about having been sent by Allah. This is like the Ayah:

(كَذَلِكَ مَا أَتَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ مِنْ رَسُولٍ إِلَّا
قَالُوا سَحِرٌ أَوْ مَجْنُونٌ - أَتَوَاصَوْا بِهِ بَلْ هُمْ قَوْمٌ
طٰغُونَ)

(Likewise, no Messenger came to those before them but they said: "A sorcerer or a madman!" Have they transmitted this saying to these Nay, they are themselves a people transgressing beyond bounds!) (51:52-53)

(فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ بِالْحَقِّ مِنْ عِنْدِنَا)

(Then, when he brought them the Truth from Us,) means, with definite evidence that Allah had sent him to them,

(قَالُوا اقْتُلُوا أَبْنَاءَ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مَعَهُ وَاسْتَحْيُوا نِسَاءَهُمْ)

(they said: "Kill with him the sons of those who believe and let their women live;") This was a second command from Fir`awn to kill the males of the Children of Israel. The first command had been as a precaution against the emergence of a man like Musa, or an act intended to humiliate this people or reduce their numbers or both. The second command was for the second reason, to humiliate the people so that they would regard Musa as a bad omen. they said:

(أَوَدِينَا مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ تَأْتِيَنَا وَمِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جِئْتَنَا قَالَ عَسَى رَبُّكُمْ أَنْ يُهْلِكَ عَدُوَّكُمْ وَيَسْتَخْلِفَكُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَيَنْظُرَ كَيْفَ تَعْمَلُونَ)

("We (Children of Israel) had suffered troubles before you came to us, and since you have come to us." He said: "It may be that your Lord will destroy your enemy and make you successors on the earth, so that He may see how you act") (7:129). Qatadah said, this was one command after another.

(وَمَا كَيْدُ الْكَافِرِينَ إِلَّا فِي ضَلَالٍ)

(but the plots of disbelievers are nothing but in vain!) means, their schemes and intentions -- to reduce the numbers of the Children of Israel lest they prevail over them -- were doomed to failure.

(وَقَالَ فِرْعَوْنُ ذَرُونِي أَقْتُلْ مُوسَى وَلْيَدْعُ رَبَّهُ)

(Fir`awn said: "Leave me to kill Musa, and let him call his Lord!...") Fir`awn, may Allah curse him, resolved to kill Musa, peace be upon him, i.e., he said to his people, 'let me kill him for you.'

(وَلْيَدْعُ رَبَّهُ)

(and let him call his Lord!) means, 'I do not care.' This is the utmost in offensive stubbornness.

(إِنِّي أَخَافُ أَنْ يُبَدِّلَ دِينَكُمْ أَوْ أَنْ يُظْهِرَ فِي
الْأَرْضِ الْفَسَادَ)

(I fear that he may change your religion, or that he may cause mischief to appear in the land!) means, Musa; Fir`awn was afraid that Musa would lead his people astray and change their ways and customs. As if Fir`awn would be concerned about what Musa might do to his people! The majority understood this as meaning, 'he will change your religion and cause mischief to appear in the land.'

(وَقَالَ مُوسَىٰ إِنِّي عُذْتُ بِرَبِّي وَرَبِّكُمْ مِّنْ كُلِّ
مُتَكَبِّرٍ لَا يُؤْمِنُ يَوْمَ الْحِسَابِ)

(Musa said: "Verily, I seek refuge in my Lord and your Lord from every arrogant who believes not in the Day of Reckoning!") means, when he heard that Fir`awn had said,

(ذَرُونِي أَقْتُلْ مُوسَىٰ)

(Leave me to kill Musa,) Musa, peace be upon him, said, "I seek refuge and protection with Allah from his evil and the evil of those like him." So he said:

(إِنِّي عُذْتُ بِرَبِّي وَرَبِّكُمْ)

(Verily, I seek refuge in my Lord and your Lord) -- those who were being addressed here --

(مِّنْ كُلِّ مُتَكَبِّرٍ)

(from every arrogant) means, from every evildoer,

(لَا يُؤْمِنُ يَوْمَ الْحِسَابِ)

(who believes not in the Day of Reckoning!) It was reported in the Hadith narrated from Abu Musa, may Allah be pleased with him, that when the Messenger of Allah was afraid of some people, he would say:

«اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا نَعُودُ بِكَ مِنْ شُرُورِهِمْ، وَنَذْرًا بِكَ فِي
نُحُورِهِمْ»

(O Allah, we seek refuge in You from their evil and we seek Your help in repulsing them.)

(وَقَالَ رَجُلٌ مُّؤْمِنٌ مِّنْ ءَالِ فِرْعَوْنَ يَكْتُمُ إِيمَانَهُ أَتَقْتُلُونَ رَجُلًا أَن يَقُولَ رَبِّيَ اللَّهُ وَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ وَإِن يَكُ كَاذِبًا فَعَلَيْهِ كَذِبُهُ وَإِن يَكُ صَادِقًا يُصِيبْكُمْ بَعْضُ الَّذِي يَعِدُكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي مَنْ هُوَ مُسْرِفٌ كَذَّابٌ - يَقُومُ لَكُمْ الْمُلْكُ الْيَوْمَ ظَهْرِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَمَنْ يَنْصُرُنَا مِنَ بَاسِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ جَاءَنَا قَالَ فِرْعَوْنُ مَا أُرِيكُمْ إِلَّا مَا أَرَى وَمَا أَهْدِيكُمْ إِلَّا سَبِيلَ الرَّشَادِ)

(28. And a believing man of Fir`awn's family, who hid his Faith said: "Would you kill a man because he says: `My Lord is Allah,' and he has come to you with clear signs from your Lord And if he is a liar, upon him will be (the sin of) his lie; but if he is telling the truth, then some of that (calamity) wherewith he threatens you will befall on you." Verily, Allah guides not one who is a transgressor, a liar!) (29. "O my people! Yours is the kingdom today, you being dominant in the land. But who will save us from the torment of Allah, should it befall us" Fir`awn said: "I show you only that which I see, and I guide you only to the path of right policy!")

Musa was supported by a believing Man from Fir`awn's Family

The well-known view is that this believing man was a Coptic (Egyptian) from the family of Fir`awn. As-Suddi said, he was a cousin (son of the paternal uncle) of Fir`awn. And it was said that he was the one who was saved along with Musa, peace be upon him. Ibn Jurayj reported that Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him, said "No one from among the family of Fir`awn believed apart from this man, the wife of Fir`awn, and the one who said,

(يَمُوسَى إِنَّ الْمَلَائِكَةَ يَأْتَمِرُونَ بِكَ لِيَقْتُلُوكَ)

("O Musa! Verily, the chiefs are taking counsel together about you, to kill you.") (28:20) This was narrated by Ibn Abi Hatim. This man concealed his Faith from his people, the Egyptians, and did not reveal it except on this day when Fir`awn said,

(ذُرُونِي أَقْتُلْ مُوسَى)

(Leave me to kill Musa,) The man was seized with anger for the sake of Allah, and the best of Jihad is to speak a just word before an unjust ruler, as is stated in the Hadith. There is no greater example of this than the words that this man said to Fir`awn:

(أَتَقْتُلُونَ رَجُلًا أَنْ يَقُولَ رَبِّيَ اللَّهُ)

(Would you kill a man because he says: `My Lord is Allah,) Al-Bukhari narrated a similar story in his Sahih from `Urwah bin Az-Zubayr, may Allah be pleased with him, who said: "I said to `Abdullah bin `Amr bin Al-`As, may Allah be pleased with him: `Tell me, what was the worst thing the idolators did to the Messenger of Allah ' He said, `While the Messenger of Allah was praying in the courtyard of the Ka`bah, `Uqbah bin Abi Mu`it came and grabbed the shoulder of the Messenger of Allah and started twisting his garment so that it strangled him. Abu Bakr, may Allah be pleased with him, came and grabbed `Uqbah's(shoulder and pushed him away from the Prophet , then he said,

(أَتَقْتُلُونَ رَجُلًا أَنْ يَقُولَ رَبِّيَ اللَّهُ وَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ)

(Would you kill a man because he says: `My Lord is Allah,' and he has come to you with clear signs from your Lord)."" This was recorded by Al-Bukhari. Allah's saying;

(وَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ)

(and he has come to you with clear signs from your Lord) means, "how can you kill a man just because he says, `My Lord is Allah,' and he brings proof that what he is saying is the truth" Then, for the sake of argument, he went along with them and said,

(وَإِنْ يَكُ كَذِبًا فَعَلَيْهِ كَذِبُهُ وَإِنْ يَكُ صَدِقًا يُصِيبُكُمْ بَعْضُ الَّذِي يَعِدُكُمْ)

(And if he is a liar, upon him will be (the sin of) his lie; but if he is telling the truth, then some of that (calamity) wherewith he threatens you will befall on you.) meaning, `if you do not believe in what he is saying, then it is only common sense to leave him alone and not harm him; if he is lying, then Allah will punish him for his lies in this world and in the Hereafter. If he is telling the truth and you harm him, then some of what he is warning about will happen to you too, because he is threatening you with punishment in this world and in the Hereafter if you go against him. It is possible that he is telling the truth in your case, so you should leave him and his people alone, and not harm them.' Allah tells us that Musa asked Fir`awn and his people to leave them in peace, as Allah says:

وَلَقَدْ فَتَنَّا قَبْلَهُمْ قَوْمَ فِرْعَوْنَ وَجَاءَهُمْ رَسُولٌ
كَرِيمٌ - أَنْ أَدُّوا إِلَيَّ عِبَادَ اللَّهِ إِنِّي لَكُمْ رَسُولٌ
أَمِينٌ)

(وَأَنْ لَا تَعْلُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ إِنِّي ءَاتِيكُمْ بِسُلْطَانٍ
مُبِينٍ - وَإِنِّي عُذْتُ بِرَبِّي وَرَبِّكُمْ أَنْ تَرْجُمُون -
وَإِنْ لَمْ تُؤْمِنُوا لِي فَاَعْتَرُون)

(And indeed We tried before them Fir`awn's people, when there came to them a noble Messenger, saying: "Deliver to me the servants of Allah. Verily, I am to you a Messenger worthy of all trust. And exalt not yourselves against Allah. Truly, I have come to you with a manifest authority. And truly, I seek refuge with my Lord and your Lord, lest you should stone me. But if you believe me not, then keep away from me and leave me alone.") (44:17-21). Similarly, the Messenger of Allah told the Quraysh to leave him alone and let him call the servants of Allah to Allah; he asked them not to harm him, and to uphold the ties of kinship that existed between him and them, by not harming him. Allah says:

(قُلْ لَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ أَجْرًا إِلَّا الْمَوَدَّةَ فِي الْقُرْبَىٰ)

(Say: "No reward do I ask of you for this except to be kind to me for my kinship with you.") (42:23), meaning, `do not harm me, because of the ties of kinship that exist between me and you; so do not harm me, and let me address my call to the people.' This was the basis of the truce agreed upon on the day of Al-Hudaybiyah, which was a manifest victory.

(إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي مَنْ هُوَ مُسْرِفٌ كَذَّابٌ)

(Verily, Allah guides not one who is a transgressor, a liar!) means, `if the one who claims to have been sent by Allah is a liar, as you say, this would be obvious to everyone from his words and deeds, for they would be inconsistent and self-contradictory. But we can see that this man is upright and what he says is consistent. If he was a sinner and a liar, Allah would not have guided him and made his words and actions rational and consistent as you see them.' Then this believer warned his people that they would lose the blessings Allah bestowed upon them and that the vengeance of Allah would befall them:

(يَقَوْمَ لَكُمْ الْمُلْكُ الْيَوْمَ ظَهَرِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ)

(O my people! Yours is the kingdom today, you being dominant in the land.) means, `Allah has blessed you with this kingdom, dominance in the land, power and authority, so take care of

this blessing by giving thanks to Allah and believing in his Messenger, and beware of the punishment of Allah if you reject His Messenger.'

(فَمَنْ يَنْصُرُنَا مِنْ بَأْسِ اللَّهِ إِنْ جَاءَنَا)

(But who will save us from the torment of Allah, should it befall us) means, 'these soldiers and troops will not avail you anything and will not ward off the punishment of Allah, if He decides to punish us.' Fir`awn said to his people, in response to the advice of this righteous man who was more deserving of kingship than Fir`awn:

(مَا أُرِيكُمْ إِلَّا مَا أَرَى)

(I show you only that which I see,) meaning, 'I only tell you and advise you to do that which I think is good for myself, too.' But Fir`awn lied, because he knew that Musa was telling the truth concerning the Message which he brought.

(قَالَ لَقَدْ عَلِمْتَ مَا أَنْزَلَ هَؤُلَاءِ إِلَّا رَبُّ
السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ بَصَائِرَ)

(Musa(said: "Verily, you know that these signs have been sent down by none but the Lord of the heavens and the earth.") (17:102)

(وَجَحَدُوا بِهَا وَاسْتَيْقَنَتْهَا أَنفُسُهُمْ ظُلْمًا وَعُلُوًّا)

(And they belied them (those Ayat) wrongfully and arrogantly, though they were themselves convinced thereof) (27:14)

(مَا أُرِيكُمْ إِلَّا مَا أَرَى)

(I show you only that which I see,) -- Fir`awn uttered a lie and a fabrication; he betrayed Allah and His Messenger, and cheated his people by not advising them sincerely.

(وَمَا أَهْدِيكُمْ إِلَّا سَبِيلَ الرَّشَادِ)

(and I guide you only to the path of right policy!) means, 'and I am only calling you to the path of truth, sincerity and guidance.' This was also a lie, but his people obeyed him and followed him. Allah says:

(فَاتَّبِعُوا أَمْرَ فِرْعَوْنَ وَمَا أَمْرُ فِرْعَوْنَ بِرَشِيدٍ)

(they followed the command of Fir`awn, and the command of Fir`awn was no right guide)
(11:97).

(وَأَضَلَّ فِرْعَوْنُ قَوْمَهُ وَمَا هَدَىٰ)

(And Fir`awn led his people astray, and he did not guide them.) (20:79) According to a Hadith:

«مَا مِنْ إِمَامٍ يَمُوتُ يَوْمَ يَمُوتُ وَهُوَ غَاشٌّ
لِرَعِيَّتِهِ، إِلَّا لَمْ يَرِحْ رَائِحَةَ الْجَنَّةِ، وَإِنَّ رِيحَهَا
لَيُوجَدُ مِنْ مَسِيرَةِ خَمْسِمِائَةِ عَامٍ»

(There is no leader who dies having cheated his people, but he will never smell the fragrance of Paradise, and its fragrance can be detected from a distance of a five-hundred year journey.)" And Allah is the Guide to the straight path.

(وَقَالَ الَّذِي ءَامَنَ يَقَوْمِ إِنِّي أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمْ مِثْلَ
يَوْمِ الْأَحْزَابِ - مِثْلَ دَابِ قَوْمِ نُوحٍ وَعَادٍ وَتَمُودَ
وَالَّذِينَ مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ وَمَا اللَّهُ يُرِيدُ ظُلْمًا لِلْعِبَادِ -
وَيَقَوْمِ إِنِّي أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمْ يَوْمَ التَّنَادِ - يَوْمَ تُؤَلُّونَ
مُذِيرِينَ مَا لَكُمْ مِنَ اللَّهِ مِنْ عَاصِمٍ وَمَنْ يُضَلِلِ
اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِنْ هَادٍ - وَلَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ يُوسُفُ مِنْ
قَبْلُ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ فَمَا زُلْتُمْ فِي شَكٍّ مِمَّا جَاءَكُمْ بِهِ
حَتَّىٰ إِذَا هَلَكَ قُلْتُمْ لَنْ يَبْعَثَ اللَّهُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ رَسُولًا
كَذَلِكَ يُضِلُّ اللَّهُ مَنْ هُوَ مُسْرِفٌ مُرْتَابٌ - الَّذِينَ
يُجَادِلُونَ فِي ءَايَاتِ اللَّهِ بِغَيْرِ سُلْطَنٍ أَتَّهُمْ كَبْرَ

مَقْتًا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ وَعِنْدَ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كَذَلِكَ يَطْبَعُ اللَّهُ
عَلَى كُلِّ قَلْبٍ مُتَكَبِّرٍ جَبَّارٍ)

(30. And he who believed said: "O my people! Verily, I fear for you an end like that day (of disaster) of the groups (of old)!") (31. "Like the end of the people of Nuh, and `Ad, and Thamud and those who came after them. And Allah wills no injustice for (His) servants.") (32. "And, O my people! Verily, I fear for you the Day when there will be mutual calling.") (33. A Day when you will turn your backs and flee having no protector from Allah. And whomsoever Allah sends astray, for him there is no guide.) (34. And indeed Yusuf did come to you, in times gone by, with clear signs, but you ceased not to doubt in that which he did bring to you, till when he died, you said: "No Messenger will Allah send after him." Thus Allah leaves astray him who is a transgressor and a skeptic.) (35. Those who dispute about the Ayat of Allah, without any authority that has come to them, it is greatly hateful and disgusting to Allah and to those who believe. Thus does Allah seal up the heart of every arrogant, tyrant.) Here Allah tells us that this righteous man, the believer from among the family of Fir`awn, warned his people of the punishment of Allah in this world and the Hereafter, saying,

(يَقَوْمِ إِنِّي أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمْ مِثْلَ يَوْمِ الْأَحْزَابِ)

(O my people! Verily, I fear for you an end like that day (of disaster) of the groups (of old)!) meaning, those of the earlier nations who disbelieved the Messengers of Allah, such as the people of Nuh, `Ad, Thamud and the disbelieving nations who came after them, how the punishment of Allah came upon them and they had no one to protect them or ward off that punishment.

(وَمَا اللَّهُ يُرِيدُ ظُلْمًا لِّلْعِبَادِ)

(And Allah wills no injustice for (His) servants.) means, Allah destroyed them for their sins and for their disbelief in and rejection of His Messengers; this was His command and His decree concerning them that was fulfilled. Then he said:

(وَيَقَوْمِ إِنِّي أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمْ يَوْمَ التَّنَادِ)

(And, O my people! Verily, I fear for you the Day when there will be mutual calling.) meaning, the Day of Resurrection.

(يَوْمَ تُؤْتُونَ مَذِيرِينَ)

(A Day when you will turn your backs and flee) means, running away.

(كَلَّا لَا وَزَرَ - إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ يَوْمَئِذٍ الْمُسْتَقَرُّ)

(No! There is no refuge! Unto your Lord will be the place of rest that Day.) (75:11-12) Allah says:

(مَا لَكُمْ مِنَ اللَّهِ مِنْ عَاصِمٍ)

(having no protector from Allah.) meaning, `you will have no one to protect you from the punishment and torment of Allah.'

(وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِنْ هَادٍ)

(And whomsoever Allah sends astray, for him there is no guide.) means, whomever Allah sends astray will have no other guide except Him. Allah's saying:

(وَلَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ يُوسُفُ مِنْ قَبْلُ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ)

(And indeed Yusuf came to you, in times gone by, with clear signs,) refers to the people of Egypt. Allah sent a Messenger to them before the time of Musa, peace be upon him, in the person of Yusuf, peace be upon him, who attained a high position in the government of the people of Egypt. He was a Messenger who called his people to Allah with justice, but they did not obey him in matters of worshipping Allah, they only obeyed him in worldly matters that pertained to his position in the government. Allah says:

(فَمَا زِلْتُمْ فِي شَكٍّ مِمَّا جَاءَكُمْ بِهِ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا هَلَكَ قُلْتُمْ لَن يَبْعَثَ اللَّهُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ رَسُولًا)

(but you ceased not to doubt in that which he brought to you, till when he died, you said: "No Messenger will Allah send after him.") means, `you despaired, and said by way of wishful thinking,'

(لَن يَبْعَثَ اللَّهُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ رَسُولًا)

(No Messenger will Allah send after him.) This was because of their disbelief and rejection (of the Messengers).

(كَذَلِكَ يُضِلُّ اللَّهُ مَنْ هُوَ مُسْرِفٌ مُرْتَابٌ)

(Thus Allah leaves astray him who is a transgressor and a skeptic.) means, this is the state of the one whom Allah sends astray because of his sinful actions and the doubts in his heart.

(الَّذِينَ يُجَادِلُونَ فِي آيَاتِ اللَّهِ بِغَيْرِ سُلْطَنٍ
أَتَّهُمْ)

(Those who dispute about the Ayat of Allah, without any authority that has come to them,) means, those who attempt to refute truth with falsehood and who dispute the proof without evidence or proof from Allah, Allah will hate them with the utmost loathing. Allah says:

(كَبْرَ مَقْتًا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ وَعِنْدَ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا)

(it is greatly hateful and disgusting to Allah and to those who believe.) meaning, the believers too will despise those who are like this, and whoever is like this, Allah will put a seal on his heart so that after that he will not acknowledge anything good or denounce anything evil. Allah says:

(كَذَلِكَ يَطْبَعُ اللَّهُ عَلَى كُلِّ قَلْبٍ مُتَكَبِّرٍ)

(Thus does Allah seal up the heart of every arrogant.) meaning, so that they cannot follow the truth.

(جَبَّارٍ)

(tyrant.)

(وَقَالَ فِرْعَوْنُ يَهْمَنُ ابْنُ لِي صَرِحًا لَعَلِّي أَبْلُغُ
الْأَسْبَابَ - أَسْبَابَ السَّمَوَاتِ فَأَطَّلِعَ إِلَى إِلِهِ
مُوسَى وَإِنِّي لأظنُّهُ كَذِبًا وَكَذَلِكَ زَيْنَ لِفِرْعَوْنَ
سُوءُ عَمَلِهِ وَصَدَّ عَنِ السَّبِيلِ وَمَا كَيْدُ فِرْعَوْنَ
إِلَّا فِي تَبَابٍ)

(36. And Fir`awn said: "O Haman! Build me a lofty tower that I may arrive at the ways --) (37. The ways of the heavens, and I may look upon the God of Musa, but verily, I think him to be a liar." Thus it was made fair seeming, in Fir`awn's eyes, the evil of his deeds, and he was hindered from the path; and the plot of Fir`awn led to nothing but loss and destruction.)

How Fir`awn mocked the Lord of Musa

Allah tells us of the arrogant and hostile defiance of Fir`awn and his rejection of Musa, when he commanded his minister Haman to build him a tower, i.e., a tall, high, strong fortress. He built it of bricks made from baked clay, as Allah says:

(فَأَوْقِدْ لِي يَهْمَنُ عَلَى الطِّينِ فَاجْعَلْ لِي
صَرْحًا)

(So kindle for me (a fire), O Haman, to bake (bricks out of) clay, and set up for me a lofty tower) (28:38).

(لَعَلِّي أَبْلُغُ الْأَسْبَابَ السَّمَوَاتِ)

(that I may arrive at the ways -- the ways of the heavens,) Sa`id bin Jubayr and Abu Salih said, "The gates of the heavens." Or it was said, the ways of the heavens.

(فَأُطَّلِعَ إِلَى إِلَهِ مُوسَى وَإِنِّي لِأَظُنُّهُ كَذِبًا)

(and I may look upon the God of Musa, but verily, I think him to be a liar.) Because of his disbelief and defiance, he did not believe that Allah had sent Musa to him. Allah says:

(وَكَذَلِكَ زُيِّنَ لِفِرْعَوْنَ سُوءَ عَمَلِهِ وَصُدَّ عَنِ
السَّبِيلِ)

(Thus it was made fair seeming, in Fir`awn's eyes, the evil of his deeds, and he was hindered from the path;) means, this act of his)building the tower(, by means of which he wanted to deceive his people and make them think that he could prove that Musa was lying. Allah says:

(وَمَا كَيْدُ فِرْعَوْنَ إِلَّا فِي تَبَابٍ)

(and the plot of Fir`awn led to nothing but loss and destruction.) Ibn `Abbas and Mujahid said, "Meaning nothing but ruin."

(وَقَالَ الَّذِي ءَامَنَ يَقَوْمِ اتَّبِعُونِ أَهْدِكُمْ سَبِيلَ
الرَّشَادِ - يَقَوْمِ إِنَّمَا هَذِهِ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا مَتْعٌ وَإِنَّ
الْآخِرَةَ هِيَ دَارُ الْقَرَارِ - مَنْ عَمِلَ سَيِّئَةً فَلَا

يُجْزَى إِلَّا مِثْلَهَا وَمَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِّنْ ذَكَرٍ أَوْ
أَنْتَى وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَأُولَئِكَ يَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ يُرْزَقُونَ
فِيهَا بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ)

(38. And the man who believed said: "O my people! Follow me, I will guide you to the way of right conduct.") (39. "O my people! Truly, this life of the world is nothing but an enjoyment, and verily, the Hereafter that is the home that will remain forever.") (40. "Whoever does an evil deed, will not be requited except the like thereof; and whosoever does a righteous deed, whether male or female and is a true believer, such will enter Paradise, where they will be provided therein without limit.")

More of what the Believer from Fir`awn's Family said

This believer said to his people who persisted in their rebellion and transgression, and preferred the life of this world:

(يَقَوْمِ اتَّبِعُونِ أَهْدِيكُمْ سَبِيلَ الرَّشَادِ)

(O my people! Follow me, I will guide you to the way of right conduct.) This is in contrast to the false claim of Fir`awn:

(وَمَا أَهْدِيكُمْ إِلَّا سَبِيلَ الرَّشَادِ)

(and I guide you only to the path of right policy.) Then he sought to make them shun this world which they preferred to the Hereafter, and which had prevented them from believing in the Messenger of Allah, Musa, peace be upon him. He said:

(يَقَوْمِ إِنَّمَا هَذِهِ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا مَتْعٌ)

(O my people! Truly, this life of the world is nothing but an enjoyment,) meaning, it is insignificant and fleeting, and soon it will diminish and pass away.

(وَإِنَّ الْآخِرَةَ هِيَ دَارُ الْقَرَارِ)

(and verily, the Hereafter that is the home that will remain forever.) means, the abode which will never end and from which there will be no departure, which will be either Paradise or Hell. Allah says:

(مَنْ عَمِلَ سَيِّئَةً فَلَا يُجْزَى إِلَّا مِثْلَهَا)

(Whosoever does an evil deed, will not be requited except the like thereof;) means, one like it.

(وَمَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِّن ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أَنْتَى وَهُوَ
مُؤْمِنٌ فَأُولَئِكَ يَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ يُرْزَقُونَ فِيهَا بِغَيْرِ
حِسَابٍ)

(and whosoever does a righteous deed, whether male or female and is a true believer, such will enter Paradise, where they will be provided therein without limit.) means, the reward cannot be enumerated, but Allah will give an immense reward without end. And Allah is the Guide to the straight path.

(وَيَقَوْمَ مَا لِي أَدْعُوكُمْ إِلَى النَّجْوَةِ وَتَدْعُونَنِي
إِلَى النَّارِ - تَدْعُونَنِي لِأَكْفُرَ بِاللَّهِ وَأَشْرِكَ بِهِ مَا
لَيْسَ لِي بِهِ عِلْمٌ وَأَنَا أَدْعُوكُمْ إِلَى الْعَزِيزِ الْغَفَّارِ
- لَا جَرَمَ لِي إِنَّمَا تَدْعُونَنِي إِلَيْهِ لَيْسَ لَهُ دَعْوَةٌ فِي
الدُّنْيَا وَلَا فِي الْآخِرَةِ وَأَنْ مَرَدَّنَا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَأَنَّ
المُسْرِفِينَ هُمْ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ - فَسَتَذَكَّرُونَ مَا
أَقُولُ لَكُمْ وَأَفْوِضُ أَمْرِي إِلَى اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بَصِيرٌ
بِالْعِبَادِ - فَوَقَاهُ اللَّهُ سَيِّئَاتٍ مَا مَكْرُوهًا وَحَاقَ بِآلِ
فِرْعَوْنَ سُوءُ الْعَذَابِ - النَّارُ يُعْرَضُونَ عَلَيْهَا
غُدُوًّا وَعَشِيًّا وَيَوْمَ تَقُومُ السَّاعَةُ أَدْخِلُوا آلَ
فِرْعَوْنَ أَشَدَّ الْعَذَابِ)

(41. "And O my people! How is it that I call you to salvation while you call me to the Fire!") (42. "You invite me to disbelieve in Allah, and to join partners in worship with Him of which I have no knowledge; and I invite you to the Almighty, the Oft-Forgiving!") (43. "La Jarama, you call me to one that does not have a claim in this world or in the Hereafter. And our return will be to Allah, and the transgressors, they shall be the dwellers of the Fire!") (44. "And you will

remember what I am telling you, and my affair I leave it to Allah. Verily, Allah is the All-Seer of (His) servants.") (45. So, Allah saved him from the evils that they plotted (against him), while an evil torment encompassed Fir`awn's people.) (46. The Fire, they are exposed to it, morning and afternoon. And on the Day when the Hour will be established (it will be said to the angels): "Admit Fir`awn's people into the severest torment!")

The Conclusion of the Believer's Words, and the ultimate Destiny of both Parties

That believer said: `Why do I call you to salvation, which is the worship of Allah alone with no partner or associate, and belief in His Messenger, whom He has sent,`

وَتَدْعُونَنِي إِلَى النَّارِ تَدْعُونَنِي لَأَكْفُرَ بِاللَّهِ
وَأَشْرِكَ بِهِ مَا لَيْسَ لِي بِهِ عِلْمٌ

(while you call me to the Fire! You invite me to disbelieve in Allah, and to join partners in worship with Him of which I have no knowledge;) means, on the basis of ignorance, with no proof or evidence.

وَأَنَا أَدْعُوكُمْ إِلَى الْعَزِيزِ الْغَفَّارِ

(and I invite you to the Almighty, the Oft-Forgiving!) means, with all His might and pride, He still forgives the sin of the one who repents to Him.

لَا جَرَمَ أَنَّمَا تَدْعُونَنِي إِلَيْهِ

(La Jarama, you call me to one) They say it means, "Truly." As-Suddi and Ibn Jarir said that the meaning of His saying:

(لَا جَرَمَ)

(La jarama) means "Truly." Ad-Dahhak said:

(لَا جَرَمَ)

(La Jarama) means, "No lie." `Ali bin Abi Talhah and Ibn `Abbas said:

(لَا جَرَمَ)

(La Jarama) means, "Indeed, the one that you call me to of idols and false gods