

(And if you ask them who created them, they will surely say: "Allah.")43:87(Allah says,

وَلَّيْنِ سَأَلْتَهُمْ مَنْ خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ
وَسَخَّرَ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ لِيَقُولَنَّ اللَّهُ)

(And if you were to ask them: "Who has created the heavens and the earth and subjected the sun and the moon" They will surely reply: "Allah."))29:61(Even after their awareness of this (Allah's creating), they still reject the resurrection and the promised return on the Day of Judgement. Yet, in reference to ability, the resurrection is easier (for Allah to perform) than the original creation. As Allah said,

وَهُوَ الَّذِي يَبْدَأُ الْخَلْقَ ثُمَّ يُعِيدُهُ وَهُوَ أَهْوَنُ
عَلَيْهِ)

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

(مَا خَلَقَكُمْ وَلَا بَعَثَكُمْ إِلَّا كَنَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ)

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

(إِنْ هَذَا إِلَّا سِحْرٌ مُّبِينٌ)

(This is nothing but obvious magic.) The polytheists say this due to their disbelief and obstinacy. They say, "We do not believe your claim that resurrection will occur." They also say, "He (Muhammad) only says this (resurrection of the dead) because he is bewitched, and he wants you to follow him in what his bewitchment tells him. Concerning Allah's statement,

وَلَّيْنِ أَخَّرْنَا عَنْهُمُ الْعَذَابَ إِلَىٰ أُمَّةٍ مَّعْدُودَةٍ)

(And if We delay the torment for them till a determined term,) Allah, the Exalted, is saying "If We delay the torment and the destruction of these polytheists until an appointed time and a period determined, and We promise them a specific time period (of life), they would still say, in rejection and haste;

(مَا يَحْسِبُهُ)

(What keeps it back) They mean by this, "What delays this torment from overtaking us" Both rejection and doubt are their very nature. Therefore, they have no escape or refuge from the torment.

The Meanings of the Word Ummah

The word Ummah is used in the Qur'an and Sunnah with a number of different meanings. Sometimes when it is used it means a specified period of time. An example is the statement of Allah, the Exalted, in this verse,

(إِلَى أُمَّةٍ مَّعْدُودَةٍ)

(till a determined Ummah (term),) This is also the meaning in the statement of Allah in Surah Yusuf,

(وَقَالَ الَّذِي نَجَا مِنْهُمَا وَادَّكَرَ بَعْدَ أُمَّةٍ)

(Then the man who was released, now after Ummah (some time) remembered.))12:45(The word Ummah is also used to refer to the Imam (leader) who is followed. An example of this is in the statement of Allah,

(إِنَّ إِبْرَاهِيمَ كَانَ أُمَّةً قَنِئًا لِلَّهِ حَنِيفًا وَلَمْ يَكُ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ)

(Verily, Ibrahim was an Ummah, obedient to Allah, Hanif, and he was not of those who were polytheists.))16:120(The word Ummah is also used to mean religion and religious creed. This is as Allah mentions concerning the polytheists, that they said,

(إِنَّا وَجَدْنَا آبَاءَنَا عَلَى أُمَّةٍ وَإِنَّا عَلَى آثَرِهِمْ مُّقْتَدُونَ)

(Verily, we found our fathers following a certain way and religion, and we will indeed follow their footsteps.))43:23(The word Ummah is also used to mean a group (of people). This is as Allah says,

(وَلَمَّا وَرَدَ مَاءَ مَدْيَنَ وَجَدَ عَلَيْهِ أُمَّةً مِّنَ النَّاسِ يَسْقُونَ)

(And when he arrived at the water (well) of Madyan, he found there a group of men watering (their flocks).))28:23(Allah also said,

وَلَقَدْ بَعْنَا فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَّسُولًا أَنْ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ
وَاجْتَنِبُوا الطَّاغُوتَ

(And verily, We have sent among every Ummah a Messenger (proclaiming): "Worship Allah (Alone), and avoid Taghut.") 16:36(Allah also said,

وَلِكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَّسُولٌ فَإِذَا جَاءَ رَسُولُهُمْ قُضِيَ بَيْنَهُمْ
بِالْقِسْطِ وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ)

(And for every Ummah there is a Messenger; when their Messenger comes, the matter will be judged between them with justice, and they will not be wronged.) 10:47(The meaning of Ummah here is those people who have had a Messenger sent among them. The meaning of Ummah in this context includes the believers and the disbelievers among them. This is like what has been recorded in Sahih Muslim,

«وَالَّذِي نَفْسِي بِيَدِهِ لَا يَسْمَعُ بِي أَحَدٌ مِنْ هَذِهِ
الْأُمَّةِ يَهُودِيٌّ وَلَا نَصْرَانِيٌّ ثُمَّ لَا يُؤْمِنُ بِي إِلَّا
دَخَلَ النَّارَ»

(By He in Whose Hand is my soul! there is no one of this Ummah, whether he be a Jew or Christian, who hears of me and does not believe in me, except that he will enter the Hell-fire.) In reference to the Ummah of followers, then they are those who believe in the Messengers, as Allah said,

(كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ)

(You (the followers of Prophet Muhammad) are the best Ummah ever raised up for mankind.) 3:110(In the Sahih the Prophet said,

«فَأَقُولُ: أُمَّتِي أُمَّتِي»

(Then I will say, "My Ummah (followers), my Ummah!") The word Ummah is also used to mean a sect or party. An example of this usage is in the statement of Allah,

وَمِنْ قَوْمٍ مُّوسَىٰ أُمَّةٌ يَهْدُونَ بِالْحَقِّ وَبِهِ يَعْدِلُونَ
(

(And of the people of Musa there is an Ummah who lead (the men) with truth and established justice therewith.) 7:159(Likewise is His statement,

(مَنْ أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ أُمَّةٌ قَائِمَةٌ)

(A party of the People of the Scripture stand for the right.) 3:113(

وَلَئِنْ أَدَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ مِنَّا رَحْمَةً ثُمَّ نَزَعْنَا مِنْهُ
إِنَّهُ لَيَبُوءُ كُفُورًا - وَلَئِنْ أَدَقْنَا نِعْمًا بَعْدَ ضَرَّاءَ
مَسَّهُ لَيَقُولُنَّ زَهَبَ السَّيِّئَاتُ عَنِّي إِنَّهُ لَفَرِحٌ
فَخُورٌ - إِلَّا الَّذِينَ صَبَرُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ
أُولَئِكَ لَهُمْ مَغْفِرَةٌ وَأَجْرٌ كَبِيرٌ)

(9. And if We give man a taste of mercy from Us, and then withdraw it from him, verily, he is despairing, ungrateful.) (10. But if We let him taste good (favor) after evil (poverty and harm) has touched him, he is sure to say: "Ills have departed from me." Surely, he is exultant and boastful (ungrateful to Allah).) (11. Except those who show patience and do righteous good deeds: those, theirs will be forgiveness and a great reward (Paradise).)

The changing of Man's Attitude in Happiness and Hardship

Allah, the Exalted, informs about mankind and the blameworthy characteristics that he possesses, except for those believing servants upon whom Allah has bestowed His mercy. Allah explains that when any hardship befalls man, after he has experienced blessings, he is disheartened and he despairs of any good in the future. He denies and rejects (the bounties of) his previous condition. Thus, he behaves as if he has never seen any good and he loses all hope for relief (from his situation). Likewise, if any blessing befalls him after displeasure,

(لَيَقُولُنَّ زَهَبَ السَّيِّئَاتُ عَنِّي)

(he is sure to say, "Ills have departed from me.") This means that he will claim that no harm or calamity will afflict him after this (blessing).

(إِنَّهُ لَفَرِحٌ فَخُورٌ)

(Surely, he is exultant and boastful (ungrateful to Allah).) This means that he is pleased with what he has in his hand and ungrateful (to Allah). At the same time he is boastful towards others. Allah, the Exalted, then says,

(إِلَّا الَّذِينَ صَبَرُوا)

(Except those who show patience) meaning, those who show patience during times of hardship and adversity. In reference to Allah's statement,

(وَعَمَلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ)

(and do righteous good deeds) This means that they perform the good deeds in times of ease and good health. Concerning the statement,

(أُولَئِكَ لَهُمْ مَغْفِرَةٌ)

(those, theirs will be forgiveness) meaning, that they will be forgiven due to the calamities that afflicted them. Concerning Allah's statement,

(وَأَجْرٌ كَبِيرٌ)

(and a great reward.) This great reward is due to them because of what they sent forth (of good deeds) in their times of ease. This is similar to what is mentioned in the Hadith,

«وَالَّذِي نَفْسِي بِيَدِهِ لَا يُصِيبُ الْمُؤْمِنَ هَمٌّ وَلَا غَمٌّ
وَلَا نَصَبٌ وَلَا وَصَبٌ وَلَا حَزَنٌ، حَتَّى الشَّوْكَةِ
يُشَاكُّهَا إِلَّا كَفَّرَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ بِهَا مِنْ خَطَايَاهُ»

(By He in Whose Hand is my soul! No worry, calamity, distress, illness, or grief strikes a believer, even the prick of a thorn, except that Allah will expiate his sins for him because of it.) In the Sahih it is recorded that the Prophet said,

«وَالَّذِي نَفْسِي بِيَدِهِ لَا يَقْضِي اللَّهُ لِلْمُؤْمِنِ قَضَاءً
إِلَّا كَانَ خَيْرًا لَهُ، إِنْ أَصَابَتْهُ سَرَّاءٌ فَشَكَرَ كَانَ

خَيْرًا لَهُ، وَإِنْ أَصَابَتْهُ ضَرَاءٌ فَصَبَرَ كَانَ خَيْرًا
لَهُ، وَلَيْسَ ذَلِكَ لِأَحَدٍ غَيْرِ الْمُؤْمِنِ»

(By He in Whose Hand is my soul! Allah does not decree any matter for the believer except that it is good for him. If any blessing befalls him, he is thankful (to Allah) and that is good for him. If any harm comes to him, he is patient and that is also good for him. This is (a bounty) exclusively for the believer.) For this reason, Allah, the Exalted, says,

(وَالْعَصْرُ - إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ - إِلَّا الَّذِينَ
ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَتَوَّصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ
وَتَوَّصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ)

(By Al-`Asr (the time). Verily, man is in loss. Except those who believe and do righteous good deeds. And recommend one another to the truth and recommend one another to patience.)
)103:1-3(Allah also says,

(إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ خُلِقَ هَلُوعًا)

(Verily, man was created very impatient.))70:19(

(فَلَعَلَّكَ تَارِكٌ بَعْضَ مَا يُوحَىٰ إِلَيْكَ وَضَائِقٌ بِهِ
صَدْرُكَ أَنْ يَقُولُوا لَوْلَا أُنزِلَ عَلَيْهِ كَنْزٌ أَوْ جَاءَ
مَعَهُ مَلَكٌ إِنَّمَا أَنْتَ نَذِيرٌ وَاللَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ
وَكَيلٌ - أَمْ يَقُولُونَ افْتَرَاهُ قُلْ فَأْتُوا بِعَشْرِ سُوْرٍ
مِّثْلِهِ مُقْتِرَاتٍ وَادْعُوا مَنْ اسْتَطَعْتُمْ مِّنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ
إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ - فَإِلَّمْ يَسْتَجِيبُوا لَكُمْ فَاعْلَمُوا
أَنَّمَا أُنزِلَ بِعِلْمِ اللَّهِ وَأَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ فَهَلْ أَنْتُمْ
مُسْلِمُونَ)

(12. So perchance you may give up a part of what is revealed unto you, and that your breast feels straitened for it because they say, "Why has not a treasure been sent down unto him, or an angel come with him" But you are only a warner. And Allah is a Guardian over all things.) (13. Or they say, "He forged it." Say: "Bring you then ten forged Surahs like unto it, and call whomsoever you can, other than Allah, if you speak the truth!") (14. If then they answer you not, know then that it is sent down with the knowledge of Allah and that there is no god besides Him! Will you then be Muslims)

The Messenger grieving by the Statements of the Polytheists, and His Gratification

This statement of Allah, the Exalted, to His Messenger comforted the worries that the polytheists were causing him due to their statements directed towards him. This is just as Allah says about them,

وَقَالُوا مَا لِهَذَا الرَّسُولِ يَأْكُلُ الطَّعَامَ وَيَمْشِي فِي الْأَسْوَاقِ لَوْلَا أَنْزَلَ إِلَيْهِ مَلَكٌ فَيَكُونُ مَعَهُ نَذِيرًا - أَوْ يُلْقَى إِلَيْهِ كَنْزٌ أَوْ تَكُونُ لَهُ جَنَّةٌ يَأْكُلُ مِنْهَا وَقَالَ الظَّالِمُونَ إِنْ تَتَّبِعُونَ إِلَّا رَجُلًا مَسْحُورًا)

(And they say: "Why does this Messenger eat food, and walk about in the markets. Why is not an angel sent down to him to be a warner with him" Or; "(why) has not a treasure been granted to him, or why has he not a garden whereof he may eat" And the wrongdoers say: "You follow none but a man bewitched."))25:7-8(Thus, Allah commanded His Messenger and guided him to not let these statements of theirs grieve his heart. Allah directed him to not let these statements prevent him, or deter him from calling them to Allah, both day and night. This is as Allah said,

وَلَقَدْ نَعْلَمُ أَنَّكَ يَضِيقُ صَدْرُكَ بِمَا يَقُولُونَ)

(Indeed, We know that your breast is straitened at what they say.))15:97(Allah says in this verse,

فَلَعَلَّكَ تَارِكٌ بَعْضَ مَا يُوحَىٰ إِلَيْكَ وَضَائِقٌ بِهِ صَدْرُكَ أَنْ يَقُولُوا)

(So perchance you may give up a part of what is revealed unto you, and that your breast feels straitened for it because they say...) The meaning here is that he (the Prophet) may be compelled to give up the Message due to what they (the polytheists) say about him. However, Allah goes on to explain: "You (Muhammad) are only a warner and you have an example in your brothers of the Messengers who came before you. For verily, the previous Messengers were rejected and harmed, yet they were patient until the help of Allah came to them."

An Explanation concerning the Miracle of the Qur'an

Then Allah, the Exalted, explains the miracle of the Qur'an, and that no one is able to produce its like, or even bring ten chapters, or one chapter like it. The reason for this is that the Speech of the Lord of all that exists is not like the speech of the created beings, just as His attributes are not like the attributes of the creation. Nothing resembles His existence. Exalted is He, the Most Holy, and the Sublime. There is no deity worthy of worship except He and there is no true Lord other than He. Then Allah goes on to say,

(قَالِمٌ يَسْتَجِيبُوا لَكُمْ)

(If then they answer you not,) Meaning, that if they do not come with a reply to that which you have challenged them with (to the reproduction of ten chapters like the Qur'an), then know that it is due to their inability to do so. Know (that this is a proof) that this is the speech revealed from Allah. It contains His knowledge, His commands and His prohibitions. Then Allah continues by saying,

(وَأَن لَّا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ فَهَلْ أَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ)

(and that there is no God besides Him! Will you then be Muslims)

(مَنْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا وَزِينَتَهَا نُوفِّ إِلَيْهِمْ أَعْمَالَهُمْ فِيهَا وَهُمْ فِيهَا لَا يُبْخَسُونَ - أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ لَيْسَ لَهُمْ فِي الْآخِرَةِ إِلَّا النَّارُ وَحَبِطَ مَا صَنَعُوا فِيهَا وَبَاطِلٌ مَّا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ)

(15. Whosoever desires the life of the world and its glitter, to them We shall pay in full (the wages of) their deeds therein, and they will have no diminution therein.) (16. They are those for whom there is nothing in the Hereafter but Fire, and vain are the deeds they did therein. And of no effect is that which they used to do.)

Whoever wants the Worldly Life, then He will have no Share of the Hereafter

Al-`Awfi reported that Ibn `Abbas said concerning this verse, "Verily those who show off, will be given their reward for their good deeds in this life. This will be so that they are not wronged, even the amount equivalent to the size of the speck on a date-stone." Ibn `Abbas continued saying, "Therefore, whoever does a good deed seeking to acquire worldly gain - like fasting, prayer, or standing for prayer at night - and he does so in order to acquire worldly benefit, then Allah says, `Give him the reward of that which he sought in the worldly life,' and his deed that he did is wasted because he was only seeking the life of this world. In the Hereafter he will be of the losers." A similar narration has been reported from Mujahid, Ad-Dahhak and many others. Anas bin Malik and Al-Hasan both said, "This verse was revealed concerning the Jews and the Christians." Mujahid and others said, "This verse was revealed concerning the people who perform deeds to be seen." Qatadah said, "Whoever's concern, intention and goal is this worldly life, then Allah will reward him for his good deeds in this life. Then, when reaches the next life, he will not have any good deeds that will be rewarded. However, concerning the believer, he will be rewarded for his good deeds in this life and in the Hereafter as well." Allah, the Exalted, says,

(مَنْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ الْعَجَلَةَ عَجَّلْنَا لَهُ فِيهَا مَا نَشَاءُ
لِمَنْ نُرِيدُ ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَا لَهُ جَهَنَّمَ يَصْلَاهَا مَذْمُومًا
مَذْحُورًا - وَمَنْ أَرَادَ الْآخِرَةَ وَسَعَى لَهَا سَعْيَهَا
وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَأُولَئِكَ كَانَ سَعْيُهُمْ مَشْكُورًا - كَلَّا
ثُمَّ هُوَ أَوْلَاءٌ وَهُوَ أَوْلَاءٌ مِنْ عَطَاءِ رَبِّكَ وَمَا كَانَ
عَطَاءُ رَبِّكَ مَحْظُورًا - انظُرْ كَيْفَ فَضَّلْنَا
بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ وَلِلْآخِرَةِ أَكْبَرُ دَرَجَاتٍ
وَأَكْبَرُ تَفْضِيلًا)

(Whoever desires the quick-passing (transitory enjoyment of this world), We readily grant him what We will for whom We like. Then, afterwards, We have appointed for him Hell; he will burn therein disgraced and rejected. And whoever desires the Hereafter and strives for it, with the necessary effort due for it while he is a believer - then such are the ones whose striving shall be appreciated. On each - these as well as those - We bestow from the bounties of your Lord. And the bounties of your Lord can never be forbidden. See how We prefer one above another, and verily, the Hereafter will be greater in degrees and greater in intricacy.) 17:18-21(Allah, the Exalted, says,

(مَنْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ حَرْثَ الْآخِرَةِ نَزِدْ لَهُ فِي حَرْثِهِ
وَمَنْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ حَرْثَ الدُّنْيَا نُؤْتِهِ مِنْهَا وَمَا لَهُ فِي
الْآخِرَةِ مِنْ نَصِيبٍ)

(Whosoever desires the reward of the Hereafter, We give him increase in his reward, and whosoever desires the reward of this world, We give him thereof, and he has no portion in the Hereafter.) 42:20(

(أَفَمَنْ كَانَ عَلَىٰ بَيِّنَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّهِ وَيَتْلُوهُ شَاهِدٌ مِّنْهُ
وَمِن قَبْلِهِ كِتَابُ مُوسَىٰ إِمَامًا وَرَحْمَةً أُولَٰئِكَ
يُؤْمِنُونَ بِهِ وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِهِ مِنَ الْأَحْزَابِ قَالُوا
مَوْعِدُهُ فَلَا تَكُ فِي مِرْيَةٍ مِّنْهُ إِنَّهُ الْحَقُّ مِن رَّبِّكَ
وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ)

(17. Can they who rely on a clear proof from their Lord, and whom a witness from Him recites (follows) it; and before it, came the Book of Musa, a guidance and a mercy, they believe therein, but those of the sects that reject it, the Fire will be their promised meeting place. So be not in doubt about it. Verily, it is the truth from your Lord, but most of mankind believe not.)

The One Who believes in the Qur'an is upon Clear Proof from His Lord

Allah, the Exalted, informs of the condition of the believers who are upon the natural religion of Allah, which He made inherent in His creatures. This is based upon their confession to Him that there is none worthy of worship except He. This is similar to Allah's statement,

(فَأَقِمْ وَجْهَكَ لِلدِّينِ حَنِيفًا فِطْرَةَ اللَّهِ الَّتِي فَطَرَ
النَّاسَ عَلَيْهَا)

(So set you your face towards the religion, Hanifan. Allah's Fitrah with which He has created mankind.) 30:30(, In the Two Sahihs it is recorded that Abu Hurayrah said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«كُلُّ مَوْلُودٍ يُوَلَّدُ عَلَى الْفِطْرَةِ فَأَبَوَاهُ يُهَوِّدَانِهِ أَوْ
يُنَصِّرَانِهِ أَوْ يُمَجِّسَانِهِ كَمَا تُولَدُ الْبَهِيمَةُ بِبَهِيمَةٍ
جَمْعَاءَ هَلْ تُحْسِنُونَ فِيهَا مِنْ جَذْعَاءَ؟»

(Every child is born upon the Fitrah, but his parents make him a Jew, Christian, or Magian. This is just as the calf that is born whole. Have you noticed any calves that are born mutilated) In Sahih Muslim it is recorded that `lyad bin Himar said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«يَقُولُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى: إِنِّي خَلَقْتُ عِبَادِي حُنَفَاءَ
فَجَاءَتْهُمْ الشَّيَاطِينُ فَاجْتَالَتْهُمْ عَنْ دِينِهِمْ وَحَرَمَتُ
عَلَيْهِمْ مَا أَحَلَلْتُ لَهُمْ، وَأَمَرْتُهُمْ أَنْ يُشْرِكُوا بِي مَا
لَمْ أَنْزِلْ بِهِ سُلْطَانًا»

(Allah, the Exalted, says, `Verily, I created my servants Hunafa', but the devils came to them and distracted them from their religion. They made unlawful for them what I had made lawful for them and they commanded them to associate partners with Me, concerning which no authority has been revealed.) Therefore, the believer is one who remains upon this Fitrah. Concerning Allah's statement,

(وَيَتْلُوهُ شَاهِدٌ مِّنْهُ)

(and whom a witness from Him recites (follows) it;) This means that a witness comes to him from Allah. That witness is the pure, perfect and magnificent legislation that Allah revealed to the Prophets. These legislations were finalized with the legislation (Shari`ah) of Muhammad . The believer has the natural disposition that bears witness to (the truth of) the general legislation, and accepts that specific laws are taken from the general legislation. The Fitrah accepts the Shari`ah and believes in it. For this reason Allah, the Exalted, says,

(أَفَمَنْ كَانَ عَلَىٰ بَيِّنَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّهِ وَيَتْلُوهُ شَاهِدٌ مِّنْهُ)

(Can they who rely on a clear proof from their Lord, and whom a witness from Him recites (follows) it;) This clear proof which is recited is the Qur'an, which Jibril conveyed to the Prophet and the Prophet Muhammad conveyed it to his Ummah. Then Allah says,

(وَمِنْ قَبْلِهِ كِتَابُ مُوسَىٰ)

(and before it, came the Book of Musa,) This means that before the Qur'an, there was the Book of Musa, the Tawrah.

(إِمَامًا وَرَحْمَةً)

(a guidance and a mercy) This means that Allah, the Exalted, revealed it to that Ummah as a leader for them and a guide for them to follow, as a mercy from Allah upon them. Therefore, whoever believed in it with true faith, then it would lead him to believe in the Qur'an as well. For this reason Allah said,

(أُولَئِكَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِهِ)

(they believe therein) Then Allah, the Exalted, threatens those who reject the Qur'an, or any part of it, by saying,

(وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِهِ مِنَ الْأَحْزَابِ قَالَنَّارُ مَوْعِدُهُ)

(but those of the sects that reject it, the Fire will be their promised meeting place.) This is directed towards everyone on the face of the earth who disbelieves in the Qur'an, whether they are idolators, disbelievers, People of the Scripture, or other sects from the descendants of Adam. This applies to all whom the Qur'an reaches, regardless of their differences in color, appearance, or nationality. As Allah says,

(الْأَنْذِرْكُمْ بِهِ وَمَنْ بَلَغَ)

(that I may therewith warn you and whomsoever it may reach.) 6:19(Allah, the Exalted, said,

(قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ جَمِيعًا)

(Say: "O mankind! Verily, I am sent to you all as the Messenger of Allah.") Allah says,

(وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِهِ مِنَ الْأَحْزَابِ قَالَنَّارُ مَوْعِدُهُ)

(but those of the sects that reject it, the Fire will be their promised meeting place.) In Sahih Muslim it is recorded that Abu Musa Al-Ash`ari, may Allah be pleased with him, said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«وَالَّذِي نَفْسِي بِيَدِهِ لَا يَسْمَعُ بِي أَحَدٌ مِنْ هَذِهِ
الْأُمَّةِ يَهُودِيٌّ (أَوْ) نَصْرَانِيٌّ ثُمَّ لَا يُؤْمِنُ بِي إِلَّا
دَخَلَ النَّارَ»

(By He in Whose Hand is my soul! there is no one of this Ummah, whether he be a Jew or Christian, who hears of me and does not believe in me, except that he will enter the Hellfire.)

Every Hadith is confirmed by the Qur'an

Ayyub As-Sakhtiyani reported from Sa`id bin Jubayr that he said, "I did not hear any Hadith of the Prophet, substantiated as he stated it, except that I found its confirmation in the Qur'an. (The narrator said, "Or he said, 'I found its verification in the Qur'an.'") Thus, it reached me that the Prophet said,

«لَا يَسْمَعُ بِي أَحَدٌ مِنْ هَذِهِ الْأُمَّةِ يَهُودِيٌّ وَلَا
نَصْرَانِيٌّ ثُمَّ لَا يُؤْمِنُ بِي إِلَّا دَخَلَ النَّارَ»

(There is no one of this Ummah, whether he be a Jew or Christian, who hears of me and does not believe in me, except that he will enter the Hellfire.) Therefore, I said, 'Where is its verification in the Book of Allah Most of what I have heard reported from the Messenger of Allah, I have found its verification in the Qur'an.' Then I found this verse,

(وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِهِ مِنَ الْأَحْزَابِ فَالنَّارُ مَوْعِدُهُ)

(but those of the sects that reject it (the Qur'an), the Fire will be their promised meeting place.) And this means from all religions." Then Allah says,

(فَلَا تَكُ فِي مِرْيَةٍ مِّنْهُ إِنَّهُ الْحَقُّ مِن رَّبِّكَ)

(So be not in doubt about it. Verily, it is the truth from your Lord.) This means that the Qur'an is the truth from Allah and there is no doubt or suspicion concerning it. This is as Allah says,

(الم - ذَلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ)

(Alif Lam Mim. The revelations of the Book in which there is no doubt, is from the Lord of all that exists!))32:1-2(Allah, the Exalted, says,

(الم ذَلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ)

(Alif Lam Mim. This is the Book in which there is no doubt.) 2:1-2(The Ayah;

(وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ)

(but most of mankind believe not.) is similar to Allah's statement,

(وَمَا أَكْثَرُ النَّاسِ وَلَوْ حَرَصْتَ بِمُؤْمِنِينَ)

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

(وَإِنْ تُطِيعْ أَكْثَرَ مَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلَوْا بِسَبِيلِ اللَّهِ)

(And if you obey most of those on the earth, they will mislead you far away from Allah's path.) Allah also says,

(وَلَقَدْ صَدَّقَ عَلَيْهِمْ إِبْلِيسُ ظَنَّهُ فَاتَّبَعُوهُ إِلَّا فَرِيقًا
مِّنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ)

(And indeed Iblis did prove true his thought about them: and they followed him, all except a group of true believers.)34:20(

(وَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنْ افْتَرَى عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا أُولَئِكَ
يُعْرَضُونَ عَلَى رَبِّهِمْ وَيَقُولُ الْأَشْقَاءُ هَؤُلَاءِ
الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا عَلَى رَبِّهِمْ إِلَّا لَعْنَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَى
الظَّالِمِينَ - الَّذِينَ يَصُدُّونَ عَنِ سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ
وَيَبْغُونَهَا عِوَجًا وَهُمْ بِالْآخِرَةِ هُمْ كَافِرُونَ -
أُولَئِكَ لَمْ يَكُونُوا مُعْجِزِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَا كَانَ

لَهُمْ مِّنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ مِنْ أَوْلِيَآءَ يُضَاعَفُ لَهُمُ
 الْعَذَابُ مَا كَانُوا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ السَّمْعَ وَمَا كَانُوا
 يُبْصِرُونَ - أَوْلِيكَ الَّذِينَ خَسِرُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ وَضَلَّ
 عَنْهُمْ مَا كَانُوا يَفْتَرُونَ - لَا جَرَمَ لَهُمْ فِي
 الْآخِرَةِ هُمْ الْآخْسَرُونَ)

(18. And who does more wrong than he who invents a lie against Allah. Such will be brought before their Lord, and the witnesses will say, "These are the ones who lied against their Lord!" No doubt! The curse of Allah is on the wrongdoers.) (19. Those who hinder (others) from the path of Allah, and seek a crookedness therein, while they are disbelievers in the Hereafter.) (20. By no means will they escape on earth, nor have they protectors besides Allah! Their torment will be doubled! They could not bear to listen and they used not to see (the truth).) (21. They are those who have lost their own selves, and that which they invented eluded them.) (22. Certainly, they are those who will be the greatest losers in the Hereafter.)

Those Who invent Lies against Allah and hinder Others from His Path are the Greatest Losers

Allah, the Exalted, explains the condition of those who lie against Him and that their scandal in the Hereafter will be presented before the heads of creation (for testimony) from the angels, Messengers, Prophets and the rest of mankind and Jinns. This is just as Imam Ahmad recorded from Safwan bin Muhriz. Safwan said, "I was holding the hand of Ibn `Umar when a man was brought to him. The man said, `How did you hear the Messenger of Allah describe An-Najwa (secret counsel or confidential talk) on the Day of Resurrection' Ibn `Umar said, `I heard him say,

«إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَهَزَّ وَجَلَّ يُدْنِي الْمُؤْمِنَ فَيَضَعُ عَلَيْهِ
 كَنَفَهُ، وَيَسْتُرُهُ مِنَ النَّاسِ، وَيَقْرُرُهُ بِدُنُوبِهِ وَيَقُولُ
 لَهُ: أَتَعْرِفُ ذَنْبَ كَذَا؟ أَتَعْرِفُ ذَنْبَ كَذَا؟ أَتَعْرِفُ
 ذَنْبَ كَذَا؟ حَتَّى إِذَا قَرَّرَهُ بِدُنُوبِهِ وَرَأَى فِي نَفْسِهِ
 أَنَّهُ قَدْ هَلَكَ قَالَ: فَإِنِّي قَدْ سَتَرْتُهَا عَلَيْكَ فِي الدُّنْيَا
 وَإِنِّي أَغْفِرُهَا لَكَ الْيَوْمَ»

(Verily, Allah, the Mighty and Sublime, will draw near the believer and He will place His shade over him. He will conceal him from the people and make him confess to his sins. He will say to him, "Do you recognize this sin Do you recognize that sin Do you recognize such and such sin" This will continue until He makes him confess to all of his sins and he (the believer) will think to himself that he is about to be destroyed. Then Allah will say, "Verily, I have concealed these sins for you in the worldly life and I have forgiven you for them today." Then he (the believer) will be given his Book of good deeds. As for the disbelievers and the hypocrites, the witnesses will say,)

(هَؤُلَاءِ الَّذِينَ كَذَبُوا عَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ أَلَا لَعْنَةُ اللَّهِ
عَلَى الظَّالِمِينَ)

(These are the ones who lied against their Lord! No doubt! The curse of Allah is on the wrongdoers)." Both Al-Bukhari and Muslim recorded this narration in the Two Sahihs. Concerning Allah's statement,

(الَّذِينَ يَصُدُّونَ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَيَبْغُونَهَا عِوَجًا)

(Those who hinder (others) from the path of Allah, and seek a crookedness therein,) This means that they prevent the people from following the truth and traversing upon the path of guidance that leads to Allah, the Mighty and Sublime. In doing so they also keep the people away from Paradise itself. Allah's statement,

(وَيَبْغُونَهَا عِوَجًا)

(and seek a crookedness therein,) This means that they want their path to be crooked and uneven. Then, Allah's statement,

(وَهُمْ بِالْآخِرَةِ هُمْ كَافِرُونَ)

(while they are disbelievers in the Hereafter.) This means that they deny the Hereafter and they reject the idea that any of its events will occur, or any of it exists at all. Concerning Allah's statement,

(أُولَئِكَ لَمْ يَكُونُوا مُعْجِزِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَا
كَانَ لَهُمْ مِّنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ مِنْ أَوْلِيَاءَ)

(By no means will they escape on earth, nor have they protectors besides Allah!) This means that these disbelievers are under the power of Allah and His force. They are in His grasp and are subject to His authority. He is Most Able to exact vengeance against them in this life before the coming of the Hereafter. This is like Allah's statement,

(إِنَّمَا يُؤَخِّرُهُمْ لِيَوْمٍ تَشْخَصُ فِيهِ الْأَبْصَارُ)

(but He gives them respite up to a Day when the eyes will stare in horror.))14:42(In the Two Sahihs it is recorded that the Prophet said,

«إِنَّ اللَّهَ لِيُمْلِي لِلظَّالِمِ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا أَخَذَهُ لَمْ يُقْلِئْهُ»

(Verily Allah gives respite to the oppressor until He seizes him, then he will not be able to escape Him.) For this reason Allah says,

(يُضَاعَفُ لَهُمُ الْعَذَابُ)

(Their torment will be doubled!) This means that the torment will be doubled upon them, because Allah gave them hearing, vision and hearts, but these things did not benefit them. Rather, they were deaf from hearing the truth and blinded away from following it. This is just as Allah has mentioned concerning them when they enter into the Hellfire. Allah says,

(وَقَالُوا لَوْ كُنَّا نَسْمَعُ أَوْ نَعْقِلُ مَا كُنَّا فِي أَصْحَابِ
السَّعِيرِ)

(And they will say: "Had we but listened or used our intelligence, we would not have been among the dwellers of the blazing Fire!") Allah also says,

(الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَصَدُّوا عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ زِدْنَاهُمْ
عَذَابًا فَوْقَ الْعَذَابِ)

(Those who disbelieved and hinder (men) from the path of Allah, for them We will add torment to the torment.))16:88(For this reason they will be punished for every command that they abandoned and every prohibition that they indulged in. Then Allah continues by saying,

(أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ خَسِرُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ وَضَلَّ عَنْهُمْ مَا
كَانُوا يَفْتَرُونَ)

(They are those who have lost their own selves, and that which they invented eluded them.) They lost themselves, meaning that they be made to enter a blazing Fire, where they will be punished, and its torment will not be lifted from them for even the blinking of an eye. This is as Allah said,

(كَلَّمَآ خَبَتُ زِدْنَآهُمُ سَعِيرًا)

(Whenever it abates, We shall increase for them the fierceness of the Fire.)17:97(Concerning the statement,

(وَضَلَّ عَنْهُمُ)

(eluded them.) meaning that it has left them.

(مَا كَانُوا يَفْتَرُونَ)

(that which they invented) besides Allah, such as rivals and idols. Yet, these things did not avail them in the slightest. In fact, these things actually caused them great harm. This is as Allah says,

(وَإِذَا حُشِرَ النَّاسُ كَانُوا لَهُمْ أَعْدَاءً وَكَانُوا
بِعِبَادَتِهِمْ كَافِرِينَ)

(And when mankind are gathered, they will become their enemies and will deny their worshipping.)46:6(Allah says,

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

(When those who were followed disown those who followed (them), and they see the torment, then all their relations will be cut off from them.)2:166(Likewise, there are many other verses that prove this loss of theirs and their destruction. For this reason Allah says,

(لَا جَرَمَ أَنَّهُمْ فِي الْآخِرَةِ هُمُ الْأَخْسَرُونَ)

(Certainly, they are those who will be the greatest losers in the Hereafter.) 11:22(In this verse Allah informs about the direction of their end. He explains that they are the greatest losers among mankind in their transaction for the abode of the Hereafter. That is because they exchanged the highest levels (of Paradise) for the lowest levels (of Hell) and they substituted the pleasure of Gardens (of Paradise) for the fierce boiling water (of Hell). They exchanged the drink of sealed nectar with the fierce hot wind, boiling water, and a shade of black smoke. They chose food from the filth of dirty wounds instead of wide-eyed lovely maidens. They preferred Hawiyah (a pit in Hell) instead of lofty castles. They chose the anger of Allah and His punishment over nearness to Him and the blessing of gazing at Him. Therefore, it is no injustice that such people should be the greatest losers in the Hereafter.

(إِنَّ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَأَخْبَتُوا إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ - مَثَلُ الْفَرِيقَيْنِ كَالْأَعْمَىٰ وَالْأُصْمِ وَالْبَصِيرِ وَالسَّمِيعِ هَلْ يَسْتَوِيَانِ مَثَلًا أَفَلَا تَذَكَّرُونَ)

(23. Verily, those who believe and do righteous good deeds, and humble themselves before their Lord, they will be the dwellers of Paradise to dwell therein forever.) (24. The likeness of the two parties is as the blind and the deaf and the seer and the hearer. Are they equal when compared Will you not then take heed)

Rewarding the People of Faith

When Allah, the Exalted, mentioned the condition of the wretched, He also commended the people of delight (the believers). They are those who believe and work righteous deeds. Thus, their hearts believed and their limbs worked righteous deeds, both in statements and actions. This includes their performance of deeds of obedience and their abandonment of evils. In this way they are the inheritors of Gardens (of Paradise), which contain lofty rooms and seats arranged in rows. Therein they will find bunches of fruit near to them, elevated couches, fair and beautiful wives, various types of fruit, desired kinds of food and delicious drinks. They also will be allowed to see the Creator of the heavens and the earth and they will be in this state of pleasure forever. They will not die, nor will they grow old. They will not experience sickness, nor will they sleep. They will not have excrement, nor will they spit or snot. Their sweat will be the perfume of musk.

The Parable of the Believers and the Disbelievers

Then, Allah, the Exalted, makes a parable of the disbelievers and the believers. He says,

(مَثَلُ الْفَرِيقَيْنِ)

(The likeness of the two parties) This refers to those disbelievers whom Allah first described as wretched, and then those believers whom He described with delightfulness. The first group is like one who is blind and deaf, while the second group is like he who sees and hears. Thus, the disbeliever is blind from the truth in this life and in the Hereafter. He is not guided to goodness, nor does he recognize it. He is deaf from hearing the proofs, thus he does not hear that which would benefit him. As Allah says,

(وَلَوْ عَلِمَ اللَّهُ فِيهِمْ خَيْرًا لَأَسْمَعَهُمْ)

(Had Allah known of any good in them, He would indeed have made them listen.)8:23(The believer is smart, bright and clever. He sees the truth and distinguishes between the truth and falsehood. Thus, he follows the good and abandons the evil. He hears and distinguishes between the proof and scepticism. Therefore, falsehood does not overcome him. Are these two types of people alike

(أَفَلَا تَذَكَّرُونَ)

(Will you not then take heed) This statement means, "Will you not consider, so that you may distinguish between these two categories of people." This is as Allah mentions in another verse,

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

(Not equal are the dwellers of the Fire and the dwellers of the Paradise. It is the dwellers of Paradise that will be successful.)59:20(Allah also says,

(وَمَا يَسْتَوِي الْأَعْمَى وَالْبَصِيرُ - وَلَا الظُّلُمَاتُ
وَلَا النُّورُ - وَلَا الظُّلُّ وَلَا الْحَرُورُ - وَمَا
يَسْتَوِي الْأَحْيَاءُ وَلَا الْأَمْوَاتُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُسْمِعُ مَنْ
يَشَاءُ وَمَا أَنْتَ بِمُسْمِعٍ مَنْ فِي الْقُبُورِ - إِنَّ أَنْتَ
إِلَّا نَذِيرٌ - إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ بِالْحَقِّ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا وَإِنْ
مِنْ أُمَّةٍ إِلَّا خَلَا فِيهَا نَذِيرٌ)

(Not alike are the blind and the seeing. Nor are (alike) darkness and light. Nor are (alike) the shade and the sun's heat. Nor are (alike) the living and the dead. Verily, Allah makes whom He wills to hear, but you cannot make hear those who are in graves. You are only a warner. Verily, We have sent you with the truth, a bearer of glad tidings and a warner. And there never was a nation but a warner had passed among them.)35:19-24(

(وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا نُوحًا إِلَىٰ قَوْمِهِ إِنِّي لَكُمْ نَذِيرٌ مُّبِينٌ
- أَنْ لَا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا اللَّهَ إِنِّي أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمْ عَذَابَ
يَوْمِ الْيَوْمِ - فَقَالَ الْمَلَأُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ قَوْمِهِ مَا

نَرَاكَ إِلَّا بَشَرًا مِّثْلَنَا وَمَا نَرَاكَ اتَّبَعَكَ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ
هُمْ أَرَادْنَا بِأَدَى الرَّأْيِ وَمَا نَرَى لَكُمْ عَلَيْنَا مِنْ
فَضْلٍ بَلْ نَظُنُّكُمْ كَاذِبِينَ)

(25. And indeed We sent Nuh to his people (and he said): "I have come to you as a plain warner.") (26. "That you worship none but Allah; surely, I fear for you the torment of a painful Day.") (27. The chiefs who disbelieved among his people said: "We see you but a man like ourselves, nor do we see any follow you but the meanest among us and they (too) followed you without thinking. And we do not see in you any merit above us, in fact we think you are liars.")

The Story of Nuh and His Conversation with His People

Allah, the Exalted, informs about Prophet Nuh. He was the first Messenger whom Allah sent to the people of the earth who were polytheists involved in worshipping idols. Allah mentions that he (Nuh) said to his people,

(إِنِّي لَكُمْ نَذِيرٌ مُّبِينٌ)

(I have come to you as a plain warner.) meaning, to openly warn you against facing Allah's punishment if you continue worshipping other than Allah. Thus, Nuh said,

(أَنْ لَا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا اللَّهَ)

(That you worship none but Allah;) This can also be seen in his statement,

(إِنِّي أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمْ عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ أَلِيمٍ)

(surely, I fear for you the torment of a painful Day.) This means, "If you all continue doing this, then Allah will punish you with a severe punishment in the Hereafter." Then Allah says,

(فَقَالَ الْمَلَأُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ قَوْمِهِ)

(The chiefs who disbelieved among his people said;) The word `chiefs' (Al-Mala'u) here means the leaders and the heads of the disbelievers. They said,

(مَا نَرَاكَ إِلَّا بَشَرًا مِّثْلَنَا)

(We see you but a man like ourselves,) This means, "You are not an angel. You are only a human being, so how can revelation come to you over us We do not see anyone following you

except the lowliest people among us, like the merchants, weavers and similar people. No people of nobility, or rulers among us follow you. These people who follow you are not known for their intelligence, wit, or sharp thinking. Rather, you merely invited them (to this Islam) and they responded to your call and followed you (ignorantly)." This is the meaning of their statement,

(وَمَا نَرَاكَ اتَّبَعَكَ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ هُمْ أَرَادُوا بِآدَابِنَا بَادِي
الرَّأْيِ)

(nor do we see any follow you but the meanest among us and they (too) followed you without thinking.) The statement, "without thinking," means that they merely followed the first thing that came to their minds. Concerning the statement,

(وَمَا نَرَىٰ لَكُمْ عَلَيْنَا مِن فَضْلٍ)

(And we do not see in you any merit above us, in fact we think you are liars.) In this they are saying, "We do not see that you (and your followers) have any virtuous status above us in your physical appearance, your character, your provisions, or your condition, since you accepted this (new) religion of yours."

(بَلْ نَحْنُكُمْ كَاذِبِينَ)

(in fact we think you are liars.) This means, "We think you are lying about that which you are claiming for yourselves of righteousness, piety, worship and happiness in the abode of the Hereafter when you arrive there." This was the response of the disbelievers to Nuh and his followers. This is a proof of their ignorance and their deficiency in knowledge and intelligence. For verily, the truth is not to be rejected because of the lowly status of those who follow it. Verily, the truth is correct in itself, regardless of whether its followers are of low status, or nobility. Actually, the reality concerning which there is no doubt, is that the followers of the truth are the noble ones, even though they may be poor. On the other hand, those who reject the truth are the lowly wretches, even though they may be wealthy. Thus, we see that usually the weakest of people are the ones who follow the truth, while the nobility and high-class people usually are opposed to the truth. This is as Allah says,

(وَكَذَلِكَ مَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِن قَبْلِكَ فِي قَرْيَةٍ مِّن نَّذِيرٍ
إِلَّا قَالَ مُتْرَفُوهَا إِنَّا وَجَدْنَا آبَاءَنَا عَلَىٰ أُمَّةٍ وَإِنَّا
عَلَىٰ آثَرِهِمْ مُّقْتَدُونَ)

(And similarly, We sent not a warner before you to any town (people) but the luxurious ones among them said: "We found our fathers following a certain way and religion, and we will indeed follow their footsteps.")43:23(When Heraclius, the emperor of Rome, asked Abu Sufyan Sakhr bin Harb about the qualities of the Prophet , he said to him, "Are his followers the noble

people, or the weak" Abu Sufyan said, "They are the weakest of them." Then Heraclius said, "They (weak ones) are the followers of the Messengers." Concerning their statement,

(بَادِيَ الرَّأْيِ)

(without thinking.) In reality this is not objectionable, or something derogatory, because the truth when it is made clear, does not leave room for second-guessing, or excessive thinking. Rather, it is mandatory that it should be followed and this is the condition of every pious, intelligent person. No one continues doubtfully pondering the truth (after it is made clear) except one who is ignorant and excessively critical. The Messengers - Allah's peace and blessings be upon them all - only delivered what was obvious and clear. Concerning Allah's statement,

(وَمَا نَرَىٰ لَكُمْ عَلَيْنَا مِن فَضْلٍ)

(And we do not see in you any merit above us,) They did not see this (the virtue of accepting Islam) because they were blind from the truth. They could not see, nor could they hear. Rather, they were wavering in their skepticism. They were wandering blindly in the darkneses of their ignorance. They, in reality, were the slanderers and liars, lowly and despicable. Therefore, in the Hereafter they will be the greatest losers.

(قَالَ يَوْمَ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِن كُنْتُ عَلَىٰ بَيِّنَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّي
وَأَتَانِي رَحْمَةٌ مِّن عِنْدِهِ فَعُمِّتْ عَلَيْكُمْ
أَنْزَلْنَاكُمْوهَا وَأَنْتُمْ لَهَا كَرِهُونَ)

(28. He said: "O my people! Tell me, if I have a clear proof from my Lord, and a mercy (prophethood) has come to me from Him, but that (mercy) has been obscured from your sight. Shall we compel you (to accept) it when you have a strong hatred for it)

The Response of Nuh

Allah says, informing about the response of Nuh to his people,

(أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِن كُنْتُ عَلَىٰ بَيِّنَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّي)

(Tell me, if I have a clear proof from my Lord,) Bayyinah means certainty, a clear matter, and truthful prophethood. That is the greatest mercy from Allah upon him (Nuh) and them (his people).

(فَعُمِّتْ عَلَيْكُمْ)

(but that (mercy) has been obscured from your sight.) "Obscured from your sight" in this verse means, `it was hidden from you and you are not guided to it. Thus, you)people(did not know its importance so you hastily rejected and denied it.'

(أَنْزَلْنَاكُمْوهَا)

(Shall we compel you (to accept) it) This means, "Should we force you to accept it, while you actually detest it."

(وَيَقَوْمٌ لَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مَالًا إِنْ أَجْرِيَ إِلَّا عَلَى اللَّهِ وَمَا أَنَا بِطَارِدِ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِنَّهُمْ مُلَاقُوا رَبِّهِمْ وَلَكِنِّي أَرَأَيْتُمْ قَوْمًا تَجْهَلُونَ - وَيَقَوْمٌ مَّنْ يَنْصُرُنِي مِنَ اللَّهِ إِنْ طَرَدْتُهُمْ أَفَلَا تَذَكَّرُونَ)

(29. And O my people! I ask of you no wealth for it, my reward is from none but Allah. I am not going to drive away those who have believed. Surely, they are going to meet their Lord, but I see that you are a people that are ignorant.) (30. And O my people! Who will help me against Allah, if I drove them away Will you not then give a thought) Nuh says to his people, "I do not ask you for any wealth in return for my sincere advice to you." Wealth (Mal) here means, "payment that I take from you." Nuh means, "I am only seeking the reward from Allah, the Mighty and Sublime." Concerning the statement,

(وَمَا أَنَا بِطَارِدِ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا)

(I am not going to drive away those who have believed.) This alludes to the fact that they (the disbelievers) requested Nuh to disassociate himself from the believers, because they were averse to them and felt themselves too important to sit with them. This is similar to the request of disbelievers to the seal of the Messengers to disassociate himself from a group of the people who were considered weak in their social status. They wanted the Prophet to sit with them in a special gathering of the elite. Therefore, Allah revealed,

(وَلَا تَطْرُدِ الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُمْ بِالْغَدَاةِ وَالْعَشِيِّ)

(And turn not away those who invoke their Lord, morning and afternoon.) Allah also says,

(وَكَذَلِكَ فَتَنَّا بَعْضَهُمْ بِبَعْضٍ لِّيَقُولُوا أَهَؤُلَاءِ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ مِّنْ بَيْنِنَا أَلَيْسَ اللَّهُ بِأَعْلَمَ بِالشَّكِرِينَ)

(Thus We have tried some of them with others, that they might say: "Is it these (poor believers) whom Allah has favored from among us" Does not Allah know best those who are grateful))6:53(

(وَلَا أَقُولُ لَكُمْ عِنْدِي خَزَائِنُ اللَّهِ وَلَا أَعْلَمُ
الْغَيْبَ وَلَا أَقُولُ إِنِّي مَلَكٌ وَلَا أَقُولُ لِلَّذِينَ
تَزْدَرِي أَعْيُنُكُمْ لَنْ يُؤْتِيَهُمُ اللَّهُ خَيْرًا اللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا
فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ إِنِّي إِذَا لَمِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ)

(31. And I do not say to you that with me are the treasures of Allah, nor that I know the Ghayb; nor do I say I am an angel, and I do not say of those whom your eyes look down upon that Allah will not bestow any good on them. Allah knows what is in their inner selves. In that case, I should, indeed be one of the wrongdoers.) Nuh is informing them that he is a Messenger from Allah, calling to the worship of Allah alone, without any partners and he is doing this by the permission of Allah. At the same time, he is not asking them for any reward for this work. He invites whomever he meets, whether of nobility or low class. Therefore, whoever responds favorably, then he has achieved salvation. He also explains that he has no power to manipulate the hidden treasures of Allah, nor does he have any knowledge of the Unseen, except what Allah has allowed him to know. Likewise, he is not an angel, rather, he is merely a human Messenger aided with miracles. Nuh goes on to say, "I do not say about these people whom you (disbelievers) detest and look down upon, that Allah will not reward them for their deeds. Allah knows best what is in their souls. If they are believers in their hearts, as their condition appears to be outwardly, then they will have a good reward. If anyone behaves evilly with them after they have believed, then he is a wrongdoer who speaks what he has no knowledge of.

(قَالُوا يَبُوحُ قَدْ جَادَلْتَنَا فَأَكْثَرْتَ جِدَالَنَا فَأْتِنَا بِمَا
تَعِدُنَا إِنْ كُنْتَ مِنَ الصَّادِقِينَ - قَالَ إِنَّمَا يَأْتِيكُمْ بِهِ
اللَّهُ إِنْ شَاءَ وَمَا أَنْتُمْ بِمُعْجِزِينَ - وَلَا يَنْفَعُكُمْ
نُصْحِي إِنْ أَرَدْتُ أَنْ أُنصَحَ لَكُمْ إِنْ كَانَ اللَّهُ
يُرِيدُ أَنْ يُغْوِيَكُمْ هُوَ رَبُّكُمْ وَإِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ)

(32. They said: "O Nuh! You have disputed with us, and much have you prolonged the dispute with us, now bring upon us what you threaten us with, if you are of the truthful.") (33. He said: "Only Allah will bring it (the punishment) on you, if He wills, and then you will escape not.") (34. "And my advice will not profit you, even if I wish to give you good counsel, if Allah's will is to keep you astray. He is your Lord! and to Him you shall return.")

The People's Request of Nuh to bring the Torment and His Response to Them

Allah, the Exalted, informs that the people of Nuh sought to hasten Allah's vengeance, torment, anger and the trial (His punishment). This is based on their saying,

(قَالُوا يُونُحُ قَدْ جَادَلْتَنَا فَأَكْثَرْتَ جِدَالَنَا)

(They said: "O Nuh! You have disputed with us and much have you prolonged the dispute with us...") They meant by this, "You (Nuh) have argued with us long enough, and we are still not going to follow you."

(فَأْتِنَا بِمَا تَعِدُنَا)

(now bring upon us what you threaten us with,) What he (Nuh) promised is referring to the vengeance and torment (from Allah). They were actually saying, "Supplicate against us however you wish, and let whatever you have supplicated come to us."

(إِنْ كُنْتَ مِنَ الصَّادِقِينَ قَالَ إِنَّمَا يَأْتِيكُمْ بِهِ اللَّهُ إِنْ شَاءَ وَمَا أَنْتُمْ بِمُعْجِزِينَ)

("...if you are of the truthful." (In reply to this,) He said: "Only Allah will bring it (the punishment) on you, if He wills, and then you will escape not.")11:32-33(This means, ` It is only Allah Who can punish you and hasten your punishment for you. He is the One from Whom nothing escapes. '

(وَلَا يَنْفَعُكُمْ نُصْحِي إِنْ أَرَدْتُ أَنْ أَنْصَحَ لَكُمْ إِنْ كَانَ اللَّهُ يُرِيدُ أَنْ يُغْوِيَكُمْ)

(And my advice will not profit you, even if I wish to give you good counsel, if Allah's will is to keep you astray.) This means: something that could be useful to you (in acceptance) of my preaching to you, warning you and advising you.

(إِنْ كَانَ اللَّهُ يُرِيدُ أَنْ يُغْوِيَكُمْ)

(if Allah's will is to keep you astray.) This means: your deception and your ultimate destruction.

(هُوَ رَبُّكُمْ وَإِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ)

(He is your Lord! and to Him you shall return.) He is the Owner of the finality of all matters. He is the Controller, the Judge, the Most Just and He does not do any injustice. Unto Him belongs

the creation and the command. He is the Originator and the Repeater (of the creation). He is the Owner of this life and the Hereafter.

(أَمْ يَقُولُونَ افْتَرَاهُ قُلْ إِنْ افْتَرَيْتُهُ فَعَلَىٰ إِجْرَامِي
وَأَنَا بَرِيءٌ مِّمَّا تُجْرَمُونَ)

(35. Or they (the pagans of Makkah) say: "He has fabricated it." Say: "If I have fabricated it, upon me be my crimes, but I am innocent of (all) those crimes which you commit.)

An Interruption to verify the Truthfulness of the Prophet

This is presented in the middle of the story to affirm the story itself. It is as if Allah, the Exalted, is saying to Muhammad , "Or do these obstinate disbelievers say that he fabricated this and invented it himself"

(قُلْ إِنْ افْتَرَيْتُهُ فَعَلَىٰ إِجْرَامِي)

(Say: "If I have fabricated it, upon me be my crimes...") This means: such sin would be mine alone.

(وَأَنَا بَرِيءٌ مِّمَّا تُجْرَمُونَ)

(but I am innocent of (all) those crimes which you commit.) This story is not invented, or fabricated falsely. Because he (the Prophet) knows better the punishment of Allah for one who lies on Allah.

(وَأَوْحَىٰ إِلَىٰ نُوحٍ أَنَّهُ لَنْ يُؤْمِنَ مِنْ قَوْمِكَ إِلَّا
مَنْ قَدْ ءَامَنَ فَلَا تَبْتَئِسْ بِمَا كَانُوا يَفْعَلُونَ -
وَاصْنَعِ الْفُلَكَ بِأَعْيُنِنَا وَوَحِينَا وَلَا تُخَاطِبْنِي فِي
الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا إِنَّهُمْ مُّعْرِقُونَ - وَيَصْنَعِ الْفُلَكَ
وَكَلَّمَا مَرَّ عَلَيْهِ مَلَأَ مِنْ قَوْمِهِ سَخِرُوا مِنْهُ قَالَ
إِنْ تَسْخَرُوا مِنَّا فَإِنَّا نَسْخَرُ مِنْكُمْ كَمَا تَسْخَرُونَ -

فَسَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ مَنْ يَأْتِيهِ عَذَابٌ يُخْزِيهِ وَيَحِلُّ
عَلَيْهِ عَذَابٌ مُّقِيمٌ)

(36. And it was revealed to Nuh: "None of your people will believe except those who have believed already. So be not sad because of what they used to do.) (37. "And construct the ship under Our Eyes and with Our revelation, and address Me not on behalf of those who did wrong; they are surely to be drowned.") (38. And as he was constructing the ship, whenever the chiefs of his people passed by him, they mocked at him. He said: "If you mock at us, so do we mock at you likewise for your mocking.") (39. "And you will know who it is on whom will come a torment that will cover him with disgrace and on whom will fall a lasting torment.")

The Revelation to Nuh concerning what would happen to the People and the Command to prepare for It

Allah, the Exalted, sent revelation to Nuh when his people hastened the vengeance and punishment of Allah upon themselves. Then, Nuh supplicated against them, as Allah mentioned, when He said;

(رَبِّ لَا تَذَرْ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ مِنَ الْكَافِرِينَ دَيَّارًا)

(My Lord! Leave not one of the disbelievers inhabiting the earth!))71:26(And he said,

(فَدَعَا رَبَّهُ أَنِّي مَغْلُوبٌ فَأَنْتَصِرْ)

(Then he invoked his Lord (saying): "I have been overcome, so help (me)!")54:10(At this point Allah revealed to him,

(أَنَّهُ لَنْ يُؤْمِنَ مِنْ قَوْمِكَ إِلَّا مَنْ قَدْ ءَامَنَ)

(None of your people will believe except those who have believed already.) Therefore, do not grieve over them and do not be concerned with their affair.

(وَاصْنَعِ الْفُلَ)

(And construct the ship.) The word Fulk here means ship.

(بِأَعْيُنِنَا)

(under Our Eyes) This means under Our vision.

(وَوَحَيْنَا)

(and with Our revelation,) This means, "We will teach you (Nuh) what to do."

(وَلَا تُخَاطِبُنِي فِي الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا إِنَّهُمْ مُعْرَقُونَ)

(and address Me not on behalf of those who did wrong; they are surely to be drowned.) Muhammad bin Ishaq mentioned from the Tawrah, "Allah commanded him (Nuh) to make it (the ship) from Indian oak wood. Then He commanded him to make its length eighty cubits and its width fifty cubits. Allah then commanded him to coat its interior and exterior with tar and to make it with a slanted bow to part the water (as it sailed). Its height was thirty cubits into the sky. It had three levels and each level was ten cubits high. The lowest level was for the animals, both tame and wild, the second level was for the human beings and the highest level was for the birds. Its door was in the center of it and it had a cover on top of it that covered the entire ship. Concerning Allah's statement,

(وَيَصْنَعُ الْفُلَ وَكُلَّمَا مَرَّ عَلَيْهِ مَلَأَ مِنْ قَوْمِهِ سَخِرُوا مِنْهُ)

(And as he was constructing the ship, whenever the chiefs of his people passed by him, they mocked at him.) This means that they teased him and rejected his threat that they would drown (in the forthcoming flood).

(قَالَ إِنْ تَسَخَرُوا مِنَّا فَإِنَّا نَسْخَرُ مِنْكُمْ)

(He said: "If you mock at us, so do we mock at you likewise...") This is a severe threat and a serious warning.

(مَنْ يَأْتِيهِ عَذَابٌ يُخْزِيهِ)

(who it is on whom will come a torment that will cover him with disgrace) This means that it (the torment) will humiliate him in this life.

(وَيَحِلُّ عَلَيْهِ عَذَابٌ مُّقِيمٌ)

(and on whom will fall a lasting torment.) that is continuous and everlasting.

(حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءَ أَمْرُنَا وَفَارَ التَّنُّورُ قُلْنَا احْمِلْ فِيهَا
مِنْ كُلِّ زَوْجَيْنِ اثْنَيْنِ وَأَهْلَكَ إِلَّا مَن سَبَقَ عَلَيْهِ
الْقَوْلُ وَمَنْ ءَامَنَ وَمَا ءَامَنَ مَعَهُ إِلَّا قَلِيلٌ)

(40. (So it was) till when Our command came and the oven gushed forth (water like fountains from the earth). We said: "Embark therein, of each kind two (male and female), and your family -- except him against whom the Word has already gone forth -- and those who believe. And none believed with him, except a few.")

The beginning of the Flood and Nuh loads Every Creature in Pairs upon the Ship

This was the promise of Allah to Nuh , when the command of Allah came, the rain was continuous and there was a severe storm which did not slacken or subside, as Allah said,

(فَفَتَحْنَا أَبْوَابَ السَّمَاءِ بِمَاءٍ مُّثَمَرٍ - وَقَجَّرْنَا
الْأَرْضَ عُيُونًا فَالْتَقَى الْمَاءُ عَلَىٰ أَمْرٍ قَدْ قُدِرَ -
وَحَمَلْنَاهُ عَلَىٰ ذَاتِ أَلْوَاحٍ وَدُسُرٍ - تَجْرِي بِأَعْيُنِنَا
جَزَاءً لِّمَن كَانَ كُفِرَ)

(So We opened the gates of the heaven with water pouring forth. And We caused springs to gush forth from the earth. So the waters (of the heaven and the earth) met for a matter predestined. And We carried him on a (ship) made of planks and nails. Floating under Our Eyes: a reward for him who had been rejected!))54:11-14(In reference to Allah's statement,

(وَفَارَ التَّنُّورُ)

(and the oven gushed forth.) It is related from Ibn ` Abbas that he said, "At-Tannur is the face of the earth." This verse means that the face of the earth became gushing water springs. This continued until the water gushed forth from the Tananir, which are places of fire. Therefore, water even gushed from the places where fire normally would be. This is the opinion of the majority of the Salaf (predecessors) and the scholars of the Khalaf (later generations). At this point, Allah commanded Nuh to select one pair from every kind of creature possessing a soul, and load them on the ship. Some said that this included other creatures as well, such as pairs of plants, male and female. It has also been said that the first of the birds to enter the ship was the parrot, and the last of the animals to enter was the donkey. Concerning Allah's statement,

(وَأَهْلَكَ إِلَّا مَنْ سَبَقَ عَلَيْهِ الْقَوْلُ)

(and your family -- except him against whom the Word has already gone forth) This means, "Load your family upon the ship." This is referring to the members of his household and his relatives, except him against whom the Word has already gone forth, for they did not believe in Allah. Among them was the son of Nuh, Yam, who went in hermitage. Among them was the wife of Nuh who was a disbeliever in Allah and His Messenger. Concerning Allah's statement,

(وَمَنْ ءَامَنَ)

(and those who believe.) from your people.

(وَمَا ءَامَنَ مَعَهُ إِلَّا قَلِيلٌ)

(And none believed with him, except a few.) This means that only a very small number believed, even after the long period of time that he (Nuh) was among them -- nine hundred and fifty years. It is reported from Ibn `Abbas that he said, "They were eighty people including their women."

(وَقَالَ ارْكَبُوا فِيهَا بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ مَجْرَاهَا وَمُرْسَاهَا
إِنَّ رَبِّي لَغَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ - وَهِيَ تَجْرِي بِهِمْ فِي
مَوْجٍ كَالْجِبَالِ وَنَادَى نُوحٌ ابْنَهُ وَكَانَ فِي مَعْزِلٍ
يَبْنَىٰ اِرْكَبْ مَعَنَا وَلَا تَكُن مَّعَ الْكٰفِرِينَ - قَالَ
سَاوِي إِلَىٰ جَبَلٍ يَعْصِمُنِي مِنَ الْمَآءِ قَالَ لَا
عَاصِمَ الْيَوْمَ مِنْ أَمْرِ اللّٰهِ إِلَّا مَنْ رَّحِمَ وَحَالَ
بَيْنَهُمَا الْمَوْجُ فَكَانَ مِنَ الْمُعْرِقِينَ)

(41. And he said: "Embark therein: in the Name of Allah will be its (moving) course and its (resting) anchorage. Surely, my Lord is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.") (42. So it (the ship) sailed with them amidst waves like mountains, and Nuh called out to his son, who had separated himself (apart): "O my son! Embark with us and be not with the disbelievers.") (43. The son replied: "I will betake myself to some mountain, it will save me from the water." Nuh said: "This day there is no savior from the decree of Allah except him on whom He has mercy." And waves came in between them, so he (the son) was among the drowned.)

The riding upon the Ship and Its sailing through the huge Waves

Allah, the Exalted, says concerning Nuh, that he said to those whom he was commanded to carry them with him in the ship,

(ارْكَبُوا فِيهَا بِسْمِ اللَّهِ مَجْرَاهَا وَمُرْسَاهَا)

(Embark therein: in the Name of Allah will be its (moving) course and its (resting) anchorage.) This means that its sailing upon the surface of the water, the end of its journeying and its anchoring, would all be with the Name of Allah. Abu Paja' Al-Utaridi recited it, (مُجْرِيهَا اللَّهُ بِسْمِ) (ومُرْسِيهَا) "In the Name of Allah, Who will be the One Who moves its course, and rests its anchor." Allah, the Exalted, said,

(فَإِذَا اسْتَوَيْتَ أَنْتَ وَمَنْ مَعَكَ عَلَى الْفُلِكِ فَقُلِ
الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي نَجَّانَا مِنَ الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ - وَقُلِ
رَبِّ أَنْزَلْنِي مِنْزَلًا مُبَارَكًا وَأَنْتَ خَيْرُ الْمُنزِلِينَ)

(And when you have embarked on the ship, you and whoever is with you, then say: "All the praises and thanks are to Allah, Who has saved us from the people who are wrongdoers. And say: "My Lord! Cause me to land at a blessed landing place, for You are the Best of those who bring to land.")23:28-29(For this reason, it is preferred to mention the Name of Allah (Bismillah) at the beginning of all affairs. The Name of Allah should be mentioned when boarding a ship, or when mounting an animal. This is as Allah, the Exalted, says,

(وَالَّذِي خَلَقَ الْأَزْوَاجَ كُلَّهَا وَجَعَلَ لَكُم مِّنَ الْفُلُكِ
وَالْأَنْعَامِ مَا تَرْكَبُونَ لِتَسْتَوُوا عَلَى ظُهُورِهِ)

(And Who has created all the pairs and has appointed for you ships and cattle on which you ride, in order that you may mount on their backs.)43:12-13(This practice (mentioning Allah's Name) has been encouraged in the Sunnah and is considered a preferred act. A discussion concerning this is forthcoming in the explanation of Surat Az-Zukhruf (43), if Allah wills. In reference to Allah's statement,

(إِنَّ رَبِّي لَغَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ)

(Surely, my Lord is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.) Such statement is suitable while mentioning (His) vengeance upon the disbelievers by drowning all of them. Therefore, he (Nuh) mentions that His Lord is Oft Forgiving, Most Merciful. This is similar to Allah's statement,

(إِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَسَرِيعُ الْعِقَابِ وَإِنَّهُ لَغَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ)

(Surely, your Lord is swift in retribution, and certainly He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.)
7:167(He also says,

وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَدُوٌّ مَغْفِرَةٌ لِلنَّاسِ عَلَى ظُلْمِهِمْ وَإِنَّ
رَبَّكَ لَشَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ)

(But verily, your Lord is full of forgiveness for mankind inspite of their wrongdoing. And verily, your Lord is (also) severe in punishment.) 13:6(Likewise, there are many other verses that combine Allah's mercy and His vengeance. Concerning Allah's statement,

وَهِيَ تَجْرِي بِهِمْ فِي مَوْجٍ كَالْجِبَالِ)

(So it sailed with them amidst waves like mountains.) This means that the ship sailed with them upon the surface of the water, which had completely covered the earth until it encompassed the tops of the mountains and even rose over them by a height of fifteen cubits. It was also said that the waves rose over the mountains by a height of eighty miles. Yet, this ship continued to move upon the water, sailing by the permission of Allah. It moved under His shade, His help, His protection and His blessing. This is as Allah, the Exalted, said,

إِنَّا لَمَّا طَغَا الْمَاءُ حَمَلْنَاكُمْ فِي الْجَارِيَةِ -
لِنَجْعَلَهَا لَكُمْ تَذْكَرَةً وَتَعِيَهَا أُنْذُنٌ وَعَيْةٌ)

(Verily, when the water rose beyond its limits, We carried you in the ship. That We might make it an admonition for you and it might be retained by the retaining ears.)69:11-12(Allah also said,

وَحَمَلْنَاهُ عَلَى ذَاتِ أَلْوَاحٍ وَدُسُرٍ - تَجْرِي بِأَعْيُنِنَا
جَزَاءً لِمَنْ كَانَ كُفِرَ - وَلَقَدْ ثَرَكْنَاهَا آيَةً فَهَلْ
مِنْ مُدَّكِرٍ)

(And We carried him on a (ship) made of planks and nails, floating under Our Eyes: a reward for him who had been rejected! And indeed, We have left this as a sign. Then is there any that will remember (or receive admonition))54:13-15(

The Story of the drowning of Nuh's Disbelieving Son

Allah continues the story, saying,

(وَنَادَى نُوحٌ ابْنَهُ)

(and Nuh called out to his son,) This was the fourth son of Nuh. His name was Yam and he was a disbeliever. His father, Nuh, called him at the time of boarding the ship, that he might believe and embark with them. If he did so, he would be saved from drowning like the other disbelievers.

(قَالَ سَأُوۡىٓ إِلَىٰ جَبَلٍ يَّعَصِمُنِي مِنَ الْمَآءِ)

(The son replied: "I will betake myself to some mountain, it will save me from the water.") He believed, in his ignorance, that the flood would not reach the tops of the mountains and that if he clung to the top of a mountain, he would be saved from drowning. His father, Nuh, said to him,

(لَا عَاصِمَ الْيَوْمَ مِنْ أَمْرِ اللَّهِ إِلَّا مَنْ رَحِمَ)

(This day there is no savior from the decree of Allah except him on whom He has mercy.) This means that nothing will be saved today from the command of Allah.

(وَحَالَ بَيْنَهُمَا الْمَوْجُ فَكَانَ مِنَ الْمُعْرِقِينَ)

(And waves came in between them, so he (the son) was among the drowned.)

(وَقِيلَ يَا أَرْضُ ابْلَعِي مَآءَكَ وَيَسْمَاءُ أَقْلِعِي
وَوَغِيضَ الْمَآءِ وَقُضِيَ الْأَمْرُ وَاسْتَوَتْ عَلَى
الْجُودِيِّ وَقِيلَ بُعْدًا لِلْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ)

(44. And it was said: "O earth! Swallow up your water, and O sky! Withhold (your rain)." And the water was made to subside and the decree was fulfilled. And it rested on (Mount) Judi, and it was said: "Away with the people who are wrongdoing!")

The End of the Flood

Allah, the Exalted, informs that when the people of the earth were all drowned, except for the people on the ship, He commanded the earth to swallow its water, which had sprang from it and gathered upon it. Then He commanded the sky to cease raining.

(وَوَغِيضَ الْمَآءِ)

(And the water was made to subside) This means that it (the water) began to decrease.

(وَقَضِيَ الْأَمْرُ)

(and the decree was fulfilled.) This means that all of those who disbelieved in Allah were removed from the people of the earth. Not a single one of them remained upon the earth.

(وَأَسْتَوَتْ)

(And it (the ship) rested) This is referring to the ship and those who were in it.

(عَلَى الْجُودِيِّ)

(on (Mount) Judi.) Mujahid said, "Judi is a mountain in Al-Jazirah (Northwest Mesopotamia) where the mountains sought to tower above each other on the day of the drowning. On that day of destruction, all the mountains sought to be higher (to avoid being overcome by the water). However, this mountain (Judi) humbled itself for Allah, the Mighty and Sublime, and therefore it was not drowned. This is why Nuh's ship anchored upon it." Qatadah said, "The ship rested upon it (Mount Judi) for a month before they (the people) came down from it." Qatadah also said, "Allah made Nuh's ship remain on Mount Judi in the land of Al-Jazirah, as a lesson and a sign." Even the early generations of this Ummah saw it. How many ships are there that have come after it and have been destroyed and became dust

(وَقِيلَ بُعْدًا لِلْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ)

(and it was said: "Away with the people who are wrongdoing!") means destruction and loss for them. The term "away with" here implies being far away from the mercy of Allah. For verily, they were destroyed to the last of them, and none of them survived.

(وَنَادَى نُوحٌ رَبَّهُ فَقَالَ رَبِّ إِنَّ ابْنِي مِنْ أَهْلِي
وَإِنَّ وَعْدَكَ الْحَقُّ وَأَنْتَ أَحْكَمُ الْحَكَمِينَ - قَالَ
يُنُوحُ إِنَّهُ لَيْسَ مِنْ أَهْلِكَ إِنَّهُ عَمَلٌ غَيْرُ صَالِحٍ فَلَا
تَسْأَلْنِي مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ إِنِّي أَعِظُكَ أَنْ تَكُونَ
مِنَ الْجَاهِلِينَ - قَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي أَعُودُ بِكَ أَنْ أَسْأَلَكَ

مَا لَيْسَ لِي بِهِ عِلْمٌ وَإِلَّا تَغْفِرَ لِي وَتَرْحَمْنِي أَكُن
مِّنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ)

(45. And Nuh called upon his Lord and said, "O my Lord! Verily, my son is of my family! And certainly, Your promise is true, and You are the Most Just of the judges.") (46. He said: "O Nuh! Surely, he is not of your family; verily, his work is unrighteous, so ask not of Me that of which you have no knowledge! I admonish you, lest you should be one of the ignorant.") (47. Nuh said: "O my Lord! I seek refuge with You from asking You that of which I have no knowledge. And unless You forgive me and have mercy on me, I would indeed be one of the losers.")

A Return to the Story of the Son of Nuh and mentioning what transpired between Nuh and Allah concerning Him

This was a request for information and an inquiry from Nuh concerning the circumstances of his son's drowning.

(فَقَالَ رَبِّ إِنَّ ابْنِي مِنِّي أَهْلِي)

(and said, "O my Lord! Verily, my son is of my family!") This means, "Verily, You promised to save my family and Your promise is the truth that does not fail. Therefore, how can he (my son) be drowned and You are the Most Just of the judges"

(قَالَ يُونُسُ إِنَّهُ لَيْسَ مِنِّي أَهْلِكَ)

(He (Allah) said: "O Nuh! Surely, he is not of your family...") This means, "He (your son) is not of those whom I promised you that I would save those of your family who believe." For this reason Allah said,

(وَأَهْلِكَ إِلَّا مَن سَبَقَ عَلَيْهِ الْقَوْلُ مِنْهُمْ)

(and your family except him against whom the Word has already gone forth.))11:40(Thus, for his son, it had already been decreed that he would be drowned due to his disbelief and his opposition to his father, the Prophet of Allah, Nuh peace be upon him. Concerning Allah's statement,

(إِنَّهُ لَيْسَ مِنِّي أَهْلِكَ)

(Surely, he is not of your family;) meaning that he (Nuh's son) was not among those whom Allah promised to save. `Abdur-Razzaq recorded that Ibn `Abbas said, "He was the son of Nuh, but he opposed him in deeds and intention." `Ikrimah said in some of the modes of recitation it said here, (صَالِحٌ غَيْرَ عَمَلًا إِنَّهُ) "Verily, he (Nuh's son) worked deeds that were not righteous."

(قِيلَ يٰ نُوحُ اهْبِطْ بِسَلَامٍ مِّنَّا وَبَرَكَاتٍ عَلَيْكَ وَعَلَىٰ
أُمَّةٍ مِّمَّن مَّعَكَ وَأُمَّةٍ سَنُنَتِّعُهُمْ ثُمَّ يَمَسُّهُم مِّنَّا
عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ)

(48. It was said: "O Nuh! Come down (from the ship) with peace from Us and blessings on you and on the people who are with you (and on some of their offspring), but (there will be other) people to whom We shall grant their pleasures (for a time), but in the end a painful torment will reach them from Us.")

The Command to descend from the Ship with Peace and Blessings

Allah, the Exalted, informs of what was said to Nuh when the ship anchored on Mount Judi, peace be upon him, peace were sent upon him and the believers with him. This salutation was also for every believer from his progeny until the Day of Resurrection. Muhammad bin Ka`b said, "Every male and female believer until the Day of Resurrection is included in this salutation of peace. Likewise, every male and female disbeliever until the Day of Resurrection is included in this promise of torment and pleasure. Muhammad bin Ishaq said, "When Allah wanted to stop the flood, He sent a wind upon the face of the earth that caused the water to be still. Then the springs of the earth were closed off from the great flooding and the pouring (rain) from the sky halted. Allah, the Exalted, says,

(وَقِيلَ يَا رِضُ اْبْلَعِي مَاءَكِ)

(And it was said: "O earth! Swallow up your water...") 11:44(Thus, the water began decreasing and subsiding until the ship settled on Mount Judi. The People of the Tawrah (the Jews) claim that this occurred during the seventh month (of the year) and it lasted for seventeen nights. Then, on the first day of the tenth month, he (Nuh) saw the mountain tops. Then after forty more days, Nuh opened the small window in the roof of the ship and he sent a raven out to see what the water had done. However, the raven did not return to him. Then, he sent a pigeon out but it returned to him without finding any place (land) to put its two feet down. He extended his hand out of the ship and the pigeon grabbed his hand so that Nuh could pull it back into the ship. Then, after seven more days passed, he sent the pigeon out again to investigate for him. The pigeon returned in the evening with a leaf from an olive tree in its mouth. From this, Nuh knew that the water had decreased from the face of the earth. He remained in the ship for seven more days before he sent the pigeon out again. This time the pigeon did not return to him, so he knew that the earth had appeared. Thus, a year was completed from the time that Allah sent the flood, until the time of Nuh sending the pigeon. The first day of the first month of the second year began when the face of the earth appeared and land became visible. This is when Nuh uncovered the opening of the ship. During the second month of the second year, after twenty six nights,

(قِيلَ يٰ نُوحُ اهْبِطْ بِسَلَامٍ مِّنَّا)

(It was said: "O Nuh! Come down (from the ship) with peace from Us)

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

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

The Explanation of These Stories is a Proof of the Revelation of Allah to His Messenger

Allah, the Exalted, says to His Prophet concerning these stories and their like,

(مِنْ أَنْبَاءِ الْغَيْبِ)

(of the news of the Unseen) from the information of the unseen of the past. Allah revealed it to you (the Prophet) in the way that it occurred, as if he witnessed it himself.

(نُوحِيهَا إِلَيْكَ)

(which We reveal unto you;) This means, "We teach it to you (Muhammad) as revelation from Us to you."

(مَا كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُهَا أَنْتَ وَلَا قَوْمُكَ مِنْ قَبْلِ هَذَا)

(neither you nor your people knew it before this.) This means that neither you (Muhammad) nor anyone of your people, have any knowledge of this. This is so that no one who rejects you can say that you learned it from him. Rather, it was Allah Who informed you of it in conformity with the true situation (of the story), just as the Books of the Prophets who were before you testify to. Therefore, you should be patient with the rejection of your people and their harming you. For verily, We shall help you and surround you with Our aid. Then, We will make the (good) end for you and those who follow you in this life and the Hereafter. This is what We did with the Messengers when We helped them against their enemies.

(إِنَّا لَنَنْصُرُ رُسُلَنَا وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا)

(Verily, We will indeed make victorious Our Messengers and those who believe.) Allah also said,

وَلَقَدْ سَبَقَتْ كَلِمَتُنَا لِعِبَادِنَا الْمُرْسَلِينَ - إِنَّهُمْ لَهُمُ
الْمَنْصُورُونَ)

(And, verily, Our Word has gone forth of old for Our servants, the Messengers, that they verily, would be made triumphant.))37:171-172(Then, Allah says,

(فَاصْبِرْ إِنَّ الْعَقَبَةَ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ)

(So be patient. Surely, the (good) end is for those who have Taqwa.)

وَإِلَىٰ عَادٍ أَخَاهُمْ هُودًا قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مَا
لَكُمْ مِّنْ إِلَهٍ غَيْرُهُ إِنِّي أَنُتُمْ إِلَّا مُفْتَرُونَ - يَا قَوْمِ لَآ
أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ أَجْرًا إِنِّي أَجْرِي إِلَّا عَلَىٰ الَّذِي
فَطَرَنِي أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ - وَيَقَوْمِ اسْتَغْفِرُوا رَبَّكُمْ ثُمَّ
تُوبُوا إِلَيْهِ يُرْسِلِ السَّمَاءَ عَلَيْكُمْ مِّدْرَارًا وَيَزِدْكُمْ
قُوَّةً إِلَىٰ قُوَّتِكُمْ وَلَا تَتَوَلَّوْا مُجْرِمِينَ)

(50. And to the `Ad (people We sent) their brother Hud. He said, "O my people! Worship Allah! You have no other god but Him. Certainly, you do nothing but invent lies!) (51. "O my people I ask of you no reward for it (the Message). My reward is only from Him Who created me. Will you not then understand") (52. "And O my people! Ask forgiveness of your Lord and then repent to Him, He will send you (from the sky) abundant rain, and add strength to your strength, so do not turn away as criminals.")

The Story of Prophet Hud and the People of `Ad

Allah, the Exalted, says,

(و)

(And) This is an introductory to what is implied: "Verily, We sent."

(إِلَىٰ عَادٍ أَخَاهُمْ هُودًا)

(to the `Ad (people) their brother Hud.) Hud came to them commanding them to worship Allah alone, without any associates. He forbade them from worshipping the idols which they made up, inventing names as gods. He informed them that he did not want any reward from them for his sincere advising and conveying of Allah's Message. He only sought his reward from Allah, the One Who created him.

(أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ)

(Will you not then understand) Someone has come calling you to what will benefit your situation in this life and the Hereafter without asking for any wage (from them). Then he commanded them to seek the forgiveness of the One Who is capable of expiating previous sins. He also commanded them to repent for that which they may do in the future. Whoever has these characteristics, Allah will make his sustenance easy for him, grant him ease in his affairs and guard over his situation. For this reason Allah says,

(يُرْسِلِ السَّمَاءَ عَلَيْكُمْ مُمْرَارًا)

(He will send you (from the sky) abundant rain,)

(قَالُوا يَهُودُ مَا جِئْتَنَا بِبَيِّنَةٍ وَمَا نَحْنُ بِتَارِكِي
ءَالِهَتِنَا عَنْ قَوْلِكَ وَمَا نَحْنُ لَكَ بِمُؤْمِنِينَ - إِن
نَقُولُ إِلَّا اعْتَرَاكَ بَعْضُ ءَالِهَتِنَا بِسُوءٍ قَالَ إِنِّي
أَشْهَدُ اللَّهَ وَأَشْهَدُوا أَنِّي بَرِيءٌ مِّمَّا تُشْرِكُونَ -
مِنْ دُونِهِ فَكِيدُونِي جَمِيعًا ثُمَّ لَا تُنظِرُونَ - إِنِّي
تَوَكَّلْتُ عَلَى اللَّهِ رَبِّي وَرَبِّكُمْ مَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ إِلَّا هُوَ
ءَاخِذٌ بِنَاصِيَتِهَا إِنَّ رَبِّي عَلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ)

(53. They said: "O Hud! No evidence have you brought us, and we shall not leave our gods for your (mere) saying! And we are not believers in you.) (54. All that we say is that some of our gods (false deities) have seized you with evil (madness). He said: "I call Allah to witness and bear you witness that I am free from that which you ascribe as partners in worship,) (55. Besides Him (Allah). So plot against me, all of you, and give me no respite.") (56. I put my trust in Allah, my Lord and your Lord! There is not a moving creature but He has the grasp of its forelock. Verily, my Lord is on the straight path (the truth).)

The Conversation between (the People of) `Ad and Hud

Allah, the Exalted, informs that they said to their Prophet,

(مَا جِئْنَا بِبَيِّنَةٍ)

(No evidence have you brought us.) This means that they claimed that Hud had not brought them any proof or evidence for what he claimed.

(وَمَا نَحْنُ بِتَارِكِي ءَالِهَتِنَا عَنْ قَوْلِكَ)

(and we shall not leave our gods for your (mere) saying!) They were saying how could his mere statement, "Leave these gods," be sufficient proof for them to leave their idols

(وَمَا نَحْنُ لَكَ بِمُؤْمِنِينَ)

(and we are not believers in you.) This means that they did not believe what he was saying was true.

(إِنْ نَقُولُ إِلَّا اعْتَرَاكَ بَعْضُ ءَالِهَتِنَا بِسُوءٍ)

(All that we say is that some of our gods have seized you with evil.) They were saying, "We think that some of our idols have afflicted you with madness and insanity in your intellect because you are trying to stop them from being worshipped and defame them."

(قَالَ إِنِّي أَشْهَدُ اللَّهَ وَأَشْهَدُوا أَنِّي بَرِيءٌ مِّمَّا
تُشْرِكُونَ مِنْ دُونِهِ)

(He said: "I call Allah to witness and bear you witness, that I am free from that which you ascribe as partners in worship besides Him (Allah).")11:54-55(Here, he is saying, "Verily, I am innocent of all of the rivals and idols (that you associate with Allah).

(فَكِيدُونِي جَمِيعًا)

(So plot against me, all of you,) you and your gods if they are true."

(ثُمَّ لَا تُنْظِرُونَ)

(and give me no respite.) the blinking of an eye." Then, Allah says,

(إِنِّي تَوَكَّلْتُ عَلَى اللَّهِ رَبِّي وَرَبِّكُمْ مَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ
إِلَّا هُوَ آخِذٌ بِنَاصِيَتِهَا)

(I put my trust in Allah, my Lord and your Lord! There is not a moving creature but He has the grasp of its forelock.) Every creature is under His (Allah's) power and His authority. He is the Best Judge, the Most Just, Who does not do any injustice in His ruling. For verily, He is upon the straight path. Verily, this argument contains a far-reaching proof and absolute evidence of the truthfulness of what Hud had come to them with. It also proves the falsehood of them worshipping idols that could not benefit nor harm them. Rather, these idols were inanimate objects that could not hear, see, befriend, or make enmity. The only One Who is worthy of having worship directed solely towards Him is Allah alone, without any partners. He is the One in Whose Hand is the sovereignty and He is in control of all things. There is nothing except that it is under His ownership, power and authority. Thus, there is no deity worthy of worship except Him and there is no Lord other than Him.

(فَإِنْ تَوَلَّوْا فَقَدْ أَبْلَعْنَاكُمْ مَا أَرْسَلْتُ بِهِ إِلَيْكُمْ
وَيَسْتَخْلِفُ رَبِّي قَوْمًا غَيْرَكُمْ وَلَا تَضُرُّونَهُ شَيْئًا
إِنَّ رَبِّي عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ حَفِيظٌ - وَلَمَّا جَاءَ أَمْرُنَا
نَجَّيْنَا هُودًا وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مَعَهُ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِنَّا
وَنَجَّيْنَاهُمْ مِّنْ عَذَابٍ غَلِيظٍ - فَوَتِلْكَ عَادٌ جَحَدُوا
بِآيَاتِ رَبِّهِمْ وَعَصَوْا رُسُلَهُ وَاتَّبَعُوا أَمْرَ كُلِّ
جَبَّارٍ عَنِيدٍ - وَأَتَّبَعُوا فِي هَذِهِ الدُّنْيَا لَعْنَةً وَيَوْمَ
الْقِيَامَةِ أَلَّا إِنَّ عَادًا كَفَرُوا رَبَّهُمْ أَلَّا بُعْدًا لِّعَادٍ قَوْمِ
هُودٍ)

(57. So if you turn away, still I have conveyed the Message with which I was sent to you. My Lord will make another people succeed you, and you will not harm Him in the least. Surely, my Lord is Guardian over all things.) (58. And when Our commandment came, We saved Hud and those who believed with him by a mercy from Us, and We saved them from a severe torment.) (59. Such were)the people of (`Ad. They rejected the Ayat of their Lord and disobeyed His Messengers, and followed the command of every proud, obstinate (oppressor of the truth from their leaders).) (60. And they were pursued by a curse in this world and (so they will be) on the Day of Resurrection. No doubt! Verily, `Ad disbelieved in their Lord. So away with `Ad, the people of Hud.) Hud says to them, "If you turn away from that which I have brought to you in

reference to worship of Allah, Who is your Lord alone, without any partners, then the proof has been established against you. This is because I have conveyed the Message of Allah to you, which He has sent me with."

(وَيَسْتَخْلِفُ رَبِّي قَوْمًا غَيْرَكُمْ)

(My Lord will make another people succeed you,) This refers to a group of people who will worship Allah alone, without associating anything with Him. This also implies that the polytheists do not bother Allah and they do not harm Him in the least with their disbelief. To the contrary, their disbelief merely harms their own selves.

(إِنَّ رَبِّي عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ حَفِيظٌ)

(Surely, my Lord is Guardian over all things.) This means that Allah is a Witness and Guardian over the statements of His servants and their actions. He will give them due recompense for their actions. If they do good deeds, He will reward them with good. If they do evil, He will punish them with evil.

The Destruction of the People of `Ad and the Salvation of Those among Them Who believed

(وَلَمَّا جَاءَ أَمْرُنَا)

(And when Our commandment came,) This is referring to the barren wind with which Allah destroyed them, to the very last of them. The mercy and kindness of Allah, the Exalted saved Hud and his followers from this terrible punishment.

(فَوَتِلْكَ عَادٌ جَحَدُوا بِآيَاتِ رَبِّهِمْ)

(Such were `Ad (people). They rejected the Ayat of their Lord) This means they disbelieved in the proofs and revelations (of Allah) and they disobeyed the Messengers of Allah. This is due to the fact that whoever disbelieves in a Prophet, then verily, he has disbelieved in all of the Prophets, peace be upon them. There is no difference between any one of them, in the sense that it is necessary to believe in all of them. Therefore, `Ad disbelieved in Hud and their disbelief was considered disbelief in all of the Messengers.

(وَاتَّبَعُوا أَمْرَ كُلِّ جَبَّارٍ عَنِيدٍ)

(and followed the command of every proud, obstinate.) This means that they abandoned following their rightly guided Messenger and they followed the command of every proud, obstinate person. Thus, they were followed in this life by a curse from Allah and His believing servants whenever they are mentioned. On the Day of Resurrection a call will be made against them in front of witnesses.

(أَلَا إِنَّ عَادًا كَفَرُوا رَبَّهُمْ)

(Verily, `Ad disbelieved in their Lord.)

(وَالِي تَمُودَ أَخَاهُمْ صَالِحًا قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ
مَا لَكُمْ مِّنْ إِلَهٍ غَيْرُهُ هُوَ أَنشَأَكُمْ مِّنَ الْأَرْضِ
وَاسْتَعْمَرَكُمْ فِيهَا فَاسْتَغْفِرُوا لَهُ ثُمَّ تَوْبُوا إِلَيْهِ إِنَّ
رَبِّي قَرِيبٌ مُّجِيبٌ)

(61. And to Thamud (people We sent) their brother Salih. He said: "O my people! Worship Allah: you have no other god but Him. He brought you forth from the earth and settled you therein, then ask forgiveness of Him and turn to Him in repentance. Certainly, my Lord is Near (to all by His knowledge), Responsive.")

The Story of Salih and the People of Thamud

Allah, the Exalted, says,

(و)

(And) This is an introduction to that which is implied, "Verily, We sent."

(إِلَى تَمُودَ)

(to Thamud) They were a group of people who were living in cities carved from the rocks, between Tabuk and Al-Madinah (in Arabia). They lived after the people of `Ad, so Allah sent to them,

(أَخَاهُمْ صَالِحًا)

(their brother Salih.) He (Salih) commanded them to worship Allah alone. He said to them,

(هُوَ أَنشَأَكُمْ مِّنَ الْأَرْضِ)

(He brought you forth from the earth) This means: `He began your creation from it (the earth). From it He created your father, Adam.'

(وَاسْتَعْمَرَ كُمْ فِيهَا)

(and settled you therein,) This means: `He made you prosperous in the earth. You are settled in it and you treasure it.'

(فَاسْتَغْفِرُوا هُ)

(then ask forgiveness) `This is in reference to your previous sins. '

(ثُمَّ تَوْبُوا إِلَيْهِ)

(and turn to Him in repentance.) `This is in reference to the future.'

(إِنَّ رَبِّي قَرِيبٌ مُّجِيبٌ)

(Certainly, my Lord is Near (to all by His knowledge), Responsive.) This is similar to Allah's statement,

(وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ
دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ)

(And when My servants ask you concerning Me, then (answer them), I am indeed Near (to them by My knowledge). I respond to the invocations of the supplicant when he calls on Me.) 2:186

(قَالُوا يَصَلِحْ قَدْ كُنْتَ فِينَا مَرْجُوًّا قَبْلَ هَذَا
أَتَنْهَانَا أَنْ نَعْبُدَ مَا يَعْبُدُ آبَاؤُنَا وَإِنَّا لَفِي شَكِّ
مِمَّا تَدْعُونَا إِلَيْهِ مُرِيبٍ - قَالَ يَقَوْمِ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِنْ
كُنْتُ عَلَى بَيِّنَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّي وَعَآتَنِي مِنْهُ رَحْمَةً فَمَنْ
يَنْصُرُنِي مِنَ اللَّهِ إِنْ عَصَيْتُهُ فَمَا تَزِيدُونَنِي غَيْرَ
تَخْسِيرٍ)

(62. They said: "O Salih! You have been among us as a figure of good hope until this! Do you (now) forbid us the worship of what our fathers have worshipped But we are really in grave

doubt as to that to which you invite us.") (63. He said: "O my people! Tell me, if I have a clear proof from my Lord, and there has come to me a mercy from Him, who then can help me against Allah, if I were to disobey Him Then you increase me not but in loss.")

The Conversation between Salih and the People of Thamud

Allah, the Exalted, mentions what transpired in the discussion between Salih and his people. Allah informs of their ignorance and obstinacy in their statement,

(قَدْ كُنْتَ فِيْنَا مَرْجُوًّا قَبْلَ هَذَا)

(You have been among us as a figure of good hope till this!) They were saying in this, "We had hope in your strong intellect before you began saying what you have said."

(أَتَنْهَانَا أَنْ نَعْبُدَ مَا يَعْبُدُ آبَاؤُنَا)

(Do you (now) forbid us the worship of what our fathers have worshipped) "what those who were before us were upon."

(وَإِنَّا لَفِي شَكٍّ مِّمَّا تَدْعُونَا إِلَيْهِ مُرِيبٍ)

(But we are really in grave doubt as to that which you invite us.) This alludes to the great amount of doubt that they had.

(قَالَ يَقَوْمِ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُ عَلَىٰ بَيِّنَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّي)

(He said: "O my people! Tell me, if I have a clear proof from my Lord...") `In reference to what He (Allah) has sent me with to you, I am upon conviction and sure evidence.'

(وَأَتَانِي مِنْهُ رَحْمَةٌ فَمَنْ يَنْصُرُنِي مِنَ اللَّهِ إِنْ عَصَيْتُهُ)

(and there has come to me a mercy from Him, who then can help me against Allah, if I were to disobey Him) `and abandon calling you to the truth and the worship of Allah alone. If I did so, you would not be able to bring me any benefit, nor increase me

(غَيْرَ تَخْسِيرٍ)

(but in loss.)' This means loss and ruin.

(وَيَقَوْمٌ هَذِهِ نَاقَةٌ لِلَّهِ لَحْمٌ عَابِءٌ قَدَرُواهَا تَأْكُلُ فِي
 أَرْضِ اللَّهِ وَلَا تَمَسُّوهُا بِسُوءٍ فَيَأْخُذَكُمْ عَذَابٌ
 قَرِيبٌ - فَعَقَرُوهَا فَقَالَ تَمَتَّعُوا فِي دَارِكُمْ ثَلَاثَةَ
 أَيَّامٍ ذَلِكَ وَعَدُّ غَيْرُ مَكْدُوبٍ - فَلَمَّا جَاءَ أَمْرُنَا
 نَجَّيْنَا صَالِحًا وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مَعَهُ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِنَّا
 وَمِن خِزْيِ يَوْمِئِذٍ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ الْقَوِيُّ الْعَزِيزُ -
 وَأَخَذَ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا الصَّيْحَةَ فَأَصْبَحُوا فِي
 دِيَارِهِمْ جِثْمِينَ - كَأَن لَّمْ يَعْنُوا فِيهَا ءلَّا إِنَّ تَمُودَ
 كَفَرُوا رَبَّهُمْ ءلَّا بُعْدًا لِّتَمُودَ)

(64. "And O my people! This she-camel of Allah is a sign to you, so leave her to graze in Allah's land, and touch her not with evil, lest a near torment should seize you.") (65. But they slaughtered her. So he said: "Enjoy yourselves in your homes for three days. This is a promise (a threat) that will not be belied.") (66. So when Our commandment came, We saved Salih and those who believed with him by a mercy from Us, and from the disgrace of that Day. Verily, your Lord -- He is the All-Strong, the All-Mighty.) (67. And As-Sayhah (awful cry) overtook the wrongdoers, so they lay (dead), prostrate in their homes.) (68. As if they had never lived there. No doubt! Verily, Thamud disbelieved in their Lord. So away with Thamud!) A discussion of this story has already preceded in Surat Al-A'raf and it is sufficient without having to be repeated here. Allah is the Giver of success.

(وَلَقَدْ جَاءَتْ رُسُلُنَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ بِالْبَشْرِى قَالُوا سَلَامًا
 قَالَ سَلَامٌ فَمَا لَبِثَ أَن جَاءَ بِعِجْلٍ حَنِيذٍ - فَلَمَّا
 رَأَى أَيْدِيَهُمْ لَا تَصِلُ إِلَيْهِ نَكَرَهُمْ وَأَوْجَسَ مِنْهُمْ
 خِيفَةً قَالُوا لَا تَخَفْ إِنَّا أُرْسِلْنَا إِلَى قَوْمِ لُوطٍ -
 وَامْرَأَتُهُ قَائِمَةٌ فَضَحِكَتْ فَبَشَّرْنَاَهَا بِإِسْحَاقَ وَمِنْ

وَرَاءِ إِسْحَاقَ يَعْقُوبَ - قَالَتْ يَوَيْلَتَا ءَأَلِدُ وَأَنَا
عَجُوزٌ وَهَذَا بَعْلِي شَيْخًا إِنَّ هَذَا لَشَيْءٌ عَجِيبٌ
- قَالُوا أَتَعْجَبِينَ مِنْ أَمْرِ اللَّهِ رَحِمَتُ اللَّهِ
وَبَرَكَتُهُ عَلَيْكُمْ أَهْلَ الْبَيْتِ إِنَّهُ حَمِيدٌ مَجِيدٌ)

(69. And verily, there came Our messengers to Ibrahim with the glad tidings. They said: "Salamun (greetings or peace!)" He answered, "Salamun (greetings or peace!)," and he hastened to entertain them with a roasted calf.) (70. But when he saw their hands went not towards it (the meal), he mistrusted them, and conceived a fear of them. They said: "Fear not, we have been sent against the people of Lut.") (71. And his wife was standing (there), and she laughed. But We gave her glad tidings of Ishaq, and after Ishaq, of Ya`qub.) (72. She said (in astonishment): "Woe unto me! Shall I bear a child while I am an old woman, and here is my husband an old man Verily, this is a strange thing!") (73. They said: "Do you wonder at the decree of Allah The mercy of Allah and His blessings be on you, O the family)of Ibrahim(. Surely, He (Allah) is All-Praiseworthy, All-Glorious.")

The Coming of the Angels to Ibrahim and Their Glad Tidings to Him of Ishaq and Ya`qub

Allah, the Exalted, says,

(وَلَقَدْ جَاءَتْ رُسُلَنَا)

(And verily, there came Our messengers) The word "messengers" here means angels.

(إِبْرَاهِيمَ بِالْبُشْرَى)

(to Ibrahim with the glad tidings.) It has been said that the word "the glad tidings" means, "Receive the glad tidings of Ishaq." Others have said that it means, "The destruction of the people of Prophet Lut." The proof of the correctness of the first view is in Allah's statement,

(فَلَمَّا ذَهَبَ عَنْ إِبْرَاهِيمَ الرَّوْعُ وَجَاءَتْهُ الْبُشْرَى
يُجَادِلُنَا فِي قَوْمِ لُوطِ)

(Then when the fear had gone away from (the mind of) Ibrahim, and the glad tidings had reached him, he began to plead with Us for the people of Lut.)11:74(

(قَالُوا سَلَامًا قَالَ سَلَامٌ)

(They said: "Salaman." He answered, "Salamun.") This means, "Upon you." The scholars of explanation have said, "Ibrahim's reply of `Salamun' was better than that with which they had greeted him with, because the subjective case (Salamun instead of Salaman) alludes to affirmation and eternity. "

(فَمَا لَبِثَ أَنْ جَاءَ بِعِجْلٍ حَنِيذٍ)

(and he hastened to entertain them with a roasted calf.) This means that he (Ibrahim) left with haste in order to bring them food, as a host. The food that he brought was a calf. The word Hanidh means roasted upon heated stones. This meaning has been reported from Ibn `Abbas, Qatadah and others. This is as Allah has said in another verse,

(فَرَاغَ إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهِ فَجَاءَ بِعِجْلٍ سَمِينٍ - فَقَرَّبَهُ إِلَيْهِمْ
قَالَ أَلَا تَأْكُلُونَ)

(Then he turned to his household, and brought out a roasted calf. And placed it before them (saying): "Will you not eat")51:26-27(This verse contains many aspects of the etiquettes of hosting guests.

(فَلَمَّا رَأَىٰ أَيْدِيَهُمْ لَا تَصِلُ إِلَيْهِ نَكِرَهُمْ)

(But when he saw their hands went not towards it (the meal), he mistrusted them,) This means that he felt estranged from them.

(وَأَوْجَسَ مِنْهُمْ خِيفَةً)

(and conceived a fear of them.) This is because angels are not concerned with food. They do not desire it, nor do they eat it. Therefore, when Ibrahim saw them reject the food that he had brought them, without tasting any of it at all, he felt a mistrust of them.

(وَأَوْجَسَ مِنْهُمْ خِيفَةً)

(and conceived a fear of them.) As-Suddi said, "When Allah sent the angels to the people of Lut, they set out walking in the form of young men, until they came to Ibrahim and they were hosted by him. When Ibrahim saw them, he rushed to host them.

(فَرَاغَ إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهِ فَجَاءَ بِعِجْلٍ سَمِينٍ)

(Then he turned to his household, and brought out a roasted calf.)51:26(He slaughtered it (the calf), roasted it on hot stones and brought it to them. Then, he sat down with them. when he placed it before them. (saying): `Will you not eat' They said, `O Ibrahim! Verily, we do not eat food without a price.' Ibrahim then said, `Verily, this food has a price.' They said, `What is its price' He said, `You must mention the Name of Allah over it before eating it and praise Allah upon finishing it.' Jibril then looked at Mika'il and said, `This man has the right that his Lord should take him as an intimate friend.'

(قَلَمَّا رَأَى أَيْدِيَهُمْ لَا تَصِلُ إِلَيْهِ نَكَرَهُمْ)

(But when he saw their hands went not towards it (the meal), he mistrusted them,) When Ibrahim saw that they were not eating, he became scared and frightened by them. Then, when Sarah looked and saw that he was honoring them, she began to serve them and she was laughing. She said, `What amazing guests we have. We serve them ourselves, showing them respect and they do not eat our food.'" Then, concerning Allah's statement about the angels,

(قَالُوا لَا تَخَفْ)

(They said: "Fear not,") They were saying, "Do not be afraid of us. Verily, we are angels sent to the people of Lut in order to destroy them." Then, Sarah laughed in delight of the good news of their destruction. This is because they had caused much corruption and their disbelief was severe. For this reason, she was rewarded with the glad tidings of a son, even after her despair. Concerning Allah's statement,

(وَمِنْ وَرَاءِ إِسْحَقَ يَعْقُوبَ)

(and after Ishaq, of Ya`qub.) This means that the son that she was going to have would have a son (her grandson) who would succeed him and beget many children. For verily, Ya`qub was the son of Ishaq, just as Allah says in Surat Al-Baqarah,

(أَمْ كُنْتُمْ شُهَدَاءَ إِذْ حَضَرَ يَعْقُوبَ الْمَوْتُ إِذْ قَالَ لِبَنِيهِ مَا تَعْبُدُونَ مِن بَعْدِي قَالُوا نَعْبُدُ إِلَهَكَ وَإِلَهَ آبَائِكَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ إِلَهًا وَاحِدًا وَنَحْنُ لَهُ مُسْلِمُونَ)

(Or were you witnesses when death approached Ya'qub When he said unto his sons, "What will you worship after me" They said, "We shall worship your God, the God of your fathers, Ibrahim, Isma`il, Ishaq, One God, and to him we submit."))2:133(From this point in this verse there is an evidence for those who say that Isma`il was the son of Ibrahim who was to be sacrificed. It could not have been Ishaq, because the glad tidings were given that he would have a son born to him named Ya`qub. So how could Ibrahim be commanded to sacrifice him when he was a small child and there had not been born to him a child yet, named Ya`qub, who was promised The promise of Allah is true and there is no breaking of Allah's promise. Therefore, it is not