

(رَبَّنَا إِنَّكَ تَعْلَمُ مَا نُخْفِي وَمَا نُعْلِنُ وَمَا يَخْفَى
 عَلَى اللَّهِ مِنْ شَيْءٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا فِي السَّمَاءِ -
 الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي وَهَبَ لِي عَلَى الْكِبَرِ إِسْمَاعِيلَ
 وَإِسْحَاقَ إِنَّ رَبِّي لَسَمِيعُ الدُّعَاءِ - رَبِّ اجْعَلْنِي
 مُقِيمَ الصَّلَاةِ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِي رَبَّنَا وَتَقَبَّلْ دُعَاءِ -
 رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيَّ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَوْمَ يَقُومُ
 الْحِسَابُ)

(38. "O our Lord! Certainly, You know what we conceal and what we reveal. Nothing on the earth or in the heaven is hidden from Allah.") (39. "All praise is due to Allah, Who has given me in old age Isma'il and Ishaq. Verily, my Lord is indeed the All-Hearer of invocations.") (40. "O my Lord! Make me one who performs Salah, and (also) from my offspring, our Lord! And accept my invocation.") (41. "Our Lord! Forgive me and my parents, and (all) the believers on the Day when the reckoning will be established.") Ibn Jarir At-Tabari said, "Allah said that Ibrahim, His Khalil, said,

(رَبَّنَا إِنَّكَ تَعْلَمُ مَا نُخْفِي وَمَا نُعْلِنُ)

(O our Lord! Certainly, You know what we conceal and what we reveal.) meaning, `You know the intention behind my supplication for the people of this town, seeking Your pleasure in sincerity to You. You know all things, apparent and hidden, and nothing escapes Your knowledge on the earth or in heaven." He next praised and thanked his Lord the Exalted and Most Honored for granting him offspring after he became old,

(الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي وَهَبَ لِي عَلَى الْكِبَرِ إِسْمَاعِيلَ
 وَإِسْحَاقَ إِنَّ رَبِّي لَسَمِيعُ الدُّعَاءِ)

(All praise is due to Allah, Who has given me in old age Isma'il (Ishmael) and Ishaq (Isaac). Verily, my Lord is indeed the All-Hearer of invocations.) `He accepts the supplication of those who invoke Him, and has accepted my invocation when I asked Him to grant me offspring. ' Ibrahim said next,

(رَبِّ اجْعَلْنِي مُقِيمَ الصَّلَاةِ)

(O my Lord! Make me one who performs Salah,), preserving its obligations and limits,

(وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِي)

(and (also) from my offspring,), make them among those who establish the prayer, as well,

(رَبَّنَا وَتَقَبَّلْ دُعَاءِ)

(our Lord! And accept my invocation.), all of my invocation which I invoked You with herein,

(رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيَّ)

(Our Lord! Forgive me and my parents,) Ibrahim said this before he declared himself innocent from his father, after he became sure that he was an enemy of Allah,

(وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ)

(and the believers), all of them,

(يَوْمَ يَقُومُ الْحِسَابُ)

(on the Day when the reckoning will be established.) on the Day when You will reckon Your servants and recompense or reward them for their deeds - good for good and evil for evil.

(وَلَا تَحْسَبَنَّ اللَّهَ غَفْلًا عَمَّا يَعْمَلُ الظَّالِمُونَ إِنَّمَا يُؤَخَّرُهُمْ لِيَوْمٍ تَشْخَصُ فِيهِ الْأَبْصَارُ - مُهْطِعِينَ مُقْنِعِي رُءُوسِهِمْ لَا يَرْتَدُّ إِلَيْهِمْ طَرْفُهُمْ وَأَفْئِدَتُهُمْ هَوَاءٌ)

(42. Consider not that Allah is unaware of that which the wrongdoers do, but He gives them respite up to a Day when the eyes will stare in horror.) (43. (They will be) hastening forward with necks outstretched, their heads raised up (towards the sky), their gaze returning not towards them and their hearts empty.)

Allah gives Respite to the Disbelievers and is never unaware of what They do

Allah says, `O Muhammad, do not think that Allah is unaware of what the unjust disbelievers do. Do not think because Allah gave them respite and delayed their punishment that He is

unaware or ignoring punishing them for what they do. Rather, Allah keeps full account of this for them and keeps it on record against them,

(إِنَّمَا يُؤَخِّرُهُمْ لِيَوْمٍ تَشْخَصُ فِيهِ الْأَبْصَارُ)

(but He gives them respite up to a Day when the eyes will stare in horror.) from the horror of the Day of Resurrection.' Allah next mentions how they will all be raised up from their graves and hurriedly gathered for the Day of Gathering,

(مُهْطِعِينَ)

(hastening forward), in a hurry. Allah said in other Ayat,

(مُهْطِعِينَ إِلَى الدَّاعِ)

(Hastening towards the caller.))54:8(

(يَوْمَئِذٍ يَتَّبِعُونَ الدَّاعِيَ لَا عِوَجَ لَهُ)

(On that Day mankind will follow strictly Allah's caller, no crookedness will they show him.))20:108(until,

(وَعَنَتِ الْوُجُوهُ لِلْحَيِّ الْقَيُّومِ)

(And (all) faces shall be humbled before the Ever Living, the Sustainer.))20:111(Allah said: another Ayah,

(يَوْمَ يَخْرُجُونَ مِنَ الْأَجْدَاثِ سِرَّاعًا)

(The Day when they will come out of the graves quickly.))70:43(Allah said next,

(مُقْنِعِي رُءُوسِهِمْ)

(with necks outstretched) meaning, raising their heads up, according to Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid and several others. Allah said next,

(لَا يَرْتَدُّ إِلَيْهِمْ طَرْفُهُمْ)

(their gaze returning not towards them) meaning, their eyes are staring in confusion, trying not to blink because of the horror and tremendous insights they are experiencing, and fear of what is going to strike them, we seek refuge with Allah from this end. This is why Allah said,

(وَأَفْئِدَتُهُمْ هَوَاءٌ)

(and their hearts empty.) meaning, their hearts are empty due to extreme fear and fright. Qatadah and several others said that the places of their hearts are empty then, because the hearts will ascend to the throats due to extreme fear. Allah said next to His Messenger ,

(وَأَنْذِرِ النَّاسَ يَوْمَ يَأْتِيهِمُ الْعَذَابُ فَيَقُولُ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا رَبَّنَا أَخِّرْنَا إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ قَرِيبٍ نُجِيبُ دَعْوَتَكَ وَنَتَّبِعِ الرَّسُولَ أُولَمْ تَكُونُوا أَقْسَمْتُمْ مِّن قَبْلُ مَا لَكُمْ مِّن زَوَالٍ - وَسَكَنْتُمْ فِي مَسْكِنِ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ وَتَبَيَّنَ لَكُمْ كَيْفَ فَعَلْنَا بِهِمْ وَضَرَبْنَا لَكُمْ الْأَمْثَالَ - وَقَدْ مَكَرُوا مَكَرَهُمْ وَعِنْدَ اللَّهِ مَكَرُهُمْ وَإِن كَانَ مَكَرُهُمْ لِتَزُولَ مِنْهُ الْجِبَالُ)

(44. And warn mankind of the Day when the torment will come unto them; then the wrongdoers will say: "Our Lord! Respite us for a little while, we will answer Your call and follow the Messengers!" (It will be said:) "Had you not sworn aforetime that you would not leave (the world for the Hereafter).") (45. "And you dwelt in the dwellings of men who wronged themselves, and it was clear to you how We dealt with them. And We put forth (many) parables for you.") (46. Indeed, they planned their plot, and their plot was with Allah, though their plot was not such as to remove the mountains from their places.)

There will be no Respite after the Coming of the Torment

Allah mentions what those who committed injustice against themselves will say when they witness the torment,

(رَبَّنَا أَخِّرْنَا إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ قَرِيبٍ نُجِيبُ دَعْوَتَكَ وَنَتَّبِعِ الرَّسُولَ)

(Our Lord! Respite us for a little while, we will answer Your call and follow the Messengers!) Allah said in other Ayat,

(حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءَ أَحَدَهُمُ الْمَوْتُ قَالَ رَبِّ ارْجِعُونِ)
(

(Until, when death comes to one of them, he says: "My Lord! Send me back.")23:99(and,

(يَأْيُهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا تُلْهِكُمْ أَمْوَالُكُمْ)

(O you who believe! Let not your properties divert you.) 63:9-10(Allah described the condition of the wrongdoers on the Day of Gathering, when He said,

(وَلَوْ تَرَىٰ إِذِ الْمُجْرِمُونَ نَاكِسُوا رُءُوسِهِمْ)

(And if you only could see when the criminals shall hang their heads.) 32:12(,

(وَلَوْ تَرَىٰ إِذْ وَقِفُوا عَلَى النَّارِ فَقَالُوا يَلَيْتَنَا نُرَدُّ
وَلَا نُكَذِّبُ بَآيَاتِ رَبِّنَا)

(If you could but see when they will be held over the Fire! They will say: "Would that we were but sent back (to the world)! Then we would not deny the Ayat of Our Lord. ..!") 6:27(and,

(وَهُمْ يَصْطَرِخُونَ فِيهَا)

(Therein they will cry.) 35:27(Allah refuted their statement here,

(أَوْلَمْ تَكُونُوا أَقْسَمْتُمْ مِّن قَبْلُ مَا لَكُمْ مِّن زَوَالٍ)

(Had you not sworn aforetime that you would not leave.) Allah says, `Had you not vowed before, that your previous state will not change, that there will be no Resurrection or Reckoning Therefore, taste this torment because of what you vowed before.' Mujahid commented that,

(مَا لَكُمْ مِّن زَوَالٍ)

(that you would not leave.) refers to leaving this worldly life to the Hereafter. Allah also said,

وَأَقْسَمُوا بِاللَّهِ جَهْدَ أَيْمَانِهِمْ لَا يَبْعَثُ اللَّهُ مَن
يَمُوتُ)

(And they swear by Allah with their strongest oaths, that Allah will not raise up him who dies.)
16:38(Allah said next,

وَسَكَنتُمْ فِي مَسْكَانِ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا أَنْفُسَهُمْ وَتَبَيَّنَ
لَكُمْ كَيْفَ فَعَلْنَا بِهِمْ وَضَرَبْنَا لَكُمُ الْأَمْثَالَ)

(And you dwelt in the dwellings of men who wronged themselves, and it was clear to you how
We had dealt with them. And We put forth (many) parables for you.) Allah says, `you have
witnessed or heard of the news of what happened to the earlier disbelieving nations, but you
did not draw a lesson from their end, nor did what We punished them with provide an example
for you,'

(حِكْمَةٌ بَلِغَةٌ فَمَا تُغْنِي النُّذُرُ)

(Perfect wisdom but the warners benefit then not.)54:5(Shu` bah narrated that Abu Ishaq said
that ` Abdur-Rahman bin Dabil said that ` Ali bin Abi Talib commented on Allah's statement,

(وَإِنْ كَانَ مَكْرُهُمْ لِتَزُولَ مِنْهُ الْجِبَالُ)

(though their plot was not such as to remove the mountains from their places.) "He who
disputed with Ibrahim about his Lord, took two eaglets and raised them until they became
adult eagels. Then he tied each eagel's leg to a wooden box with ropes and left them go
hungry. He and another man sat inside the wooden box and raised a staff with a piece of meat
on its tip. So, the two eagles started flying. The king asked his companion to tell him what he
was seeing, and he described the scenes to him, until he said that he saw the earth as a fly. So,
the king brought the staff closer to the eagels and they started landing slowly. This is why Allah
said, (الْجِبَالُ مِنْهُ لِيَرُودَ مَكْرُهُمْ كَذَّ وَإِنْ) ` though their plot was hardly one to remove the mountains from
their places." Mujahid also mentioned that this story was about Nebuchadnezzar, and that
when the king's sight was far away from earth and its people, he was called, `O tyrant one!
Where are you headed to' He became afraid and brought the staff closer to the eagels, which
flew faster with such haste that the mountains almost shook from the noise they made. The
mountains were almost moved from their places, so Allah said,

(وَإِنْ كَانَ مَكْرُهُمْ لِتَزُولَ مِنْهُ الْجِبَالُ)

(though their plot was not such as to remove the mountains from their places.)" Ibn Jurayj
narrated that Mujahid recited this Ayah in a way that means, "though their plot was such as to
remove the mountains from their places." However, Al-` Awfi reported that Ibn ` Abbas said
that,

(وَإِنْ كَانَ مَكْرُهُمْ لِتَزُولَ مِنْهُ الْجِبَالُ)

(though their plot was not such as to remove the mountains from their places.) indicates that their plot was not such as to remove the mountains from their places. Similar was said by Al-Hasan Al-Basri. Ibn Jarir reasoned that, "Associating others with Allah and disbelieving in Him, which they brought upon themselves, did not bother the mountains nor other creatures. Rather, the harm of their actions came to haunt them." I (Ibn Kathir) said, this meaning is similar to Allah's statement,

(وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَحًا إِنَّكَ لَنْ تَخْرِقَ
الْأَرْضَ وَلَنْ تَبْلُغَ الْجِبَالَ طُولًا)

(And walk not on the earth with conceit and arrogance. Verily, you can neither rend nor penetrate the earth, nor can you attain a stature like the mountains in height.)17:37(There is another way of explaining this Ayah; `Ali bin Abi Talhah reported that Ibn `Abbas said that,

(وَإِنْ كَانَ مَكْرُهُمْ لِتَزُولَ مِنْهُ الْجِبَالُ)

(though their plot was not such as to remove the mountains from their places.) refers to their Shirk, for Allah said in another Ayah,

(تَكَادُ السَّمَوَاتُ يَتَفَطَّرْنَ مِنْهُ)

(Whereby the heavens are almost torn.))19:90(Ad-Dahhak and Qatadah said similarly.

(فَلَا تَحْسَبَنَّ اللَّهَ مُخْلِفًا وَعَدِهِ رُسُلُهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ
عَزِيزٌ ذُو انتِقَامٍ - يَوْمَ تُبَدَّلُ الْأَرْضُ غَيْرَ
الْأَرْضِ وَالسَّمَوَاتُ وَبَرَزُوا لِلَّهِ الْوَاحِدِ الْقَهَّارِ)

(47. So think not that Allah will fail to keep His promise to His Messengers. Certainly, Allah is All-Mighty, All-Able of Retribution.) (48. On the Day when the earth will be changed to another earth and so will be the heavens, and they (all creatures) will appear before Allah, the One, the Irresistible.)

Allah never breaks a Promise

Allah affirms His promise,

(فَلَا تَحْسَبَنَّ اللَّهَ مُخْلِفًا وَعَدِهِ رُسُلُهُ)

(So think not that Allah will fail to keep His promise to His Messengers.) His promise to grant them victory in this life and on the Day when the Witnesses shall come forth. Allah affirms that He is All-Able and that nothing He wills escapes His power and none can resist Him. Allah affirms that He is Able to exact retribution from those who disbelieve in Him and deny Him,

(وَيْلٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِلْمُكَذِّبِينَ)

(Woe that Day to the deniers!))77:15(Allah said here,

(يَوْمَ تُبَدَّلُ الْأَرْضُ غَيْرَ الْأَرْضِ وَالسَّمَوَاتُ)

(On the Day when the earth will be changed to another earth and so will be the heavens,) meaning, His promise shall come to pass on the Day when the earth will be changed to an earth other than this earth that we know and recognize. It is recorded in the Two Sahihs that Sahl bin Sa`d said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«يُحْشَرُ النَّاسُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ عَلَى أَرْضٍ بَيْضَاءَ
عَفْرَاءَ كَقُرْصَةِ النَّقِيِّ لَيْسَ فِيهَا مَعْلَمٌ لِأَحَدٍ»

(On the Day of Resurrection, the people will be gathered on a white (barren), flat earth just like the wheat bread, it has no recognizable features for anyone.) Imam Ahmad recorded that `A'ishah said, "I was the first among all people who asked the Messenger of Allah about this Ayah,

(يَوْمَ تُبَدَّلُ الْأَرْضُ غَيْرَ الْأَرْضِ وَالسَّمَوَاتُ)

(On the Day when the earth will be changed to another earth and so will be the heavens,) saying, `O Allah's Messenger! Where will the people be then' He said,

«عَلَى الصِّرَاطِ»

(On the Strat.)" Muslim, but not Al-Bukhari, collected this Hadith. At-Tirmidhi and Ibn Majah also recorded it, and At-Tirmidhi said "Hasan Sahih". Imam Muslim bin Al-Hajjaj recorded in his Sahih that Thawban the servant of the Messenger of Allah said, "I was standing next to the Messenger of Allah when a Jewish rabbi came to him and said, `Peace be to you, O Muhammad.' I pushed him with such a force that almost caused him to fall down and he asked me why I did that. I said, `Why did you not say, `O Messenger of Allah' The Jew said, `We call him by the name which his family gave him.' The Messenger of Allah said,

«إِنَّ اسْمِي مُحَمَّدٌ الَّذِي سَمَّانِي بِهِ أَهْلِي»

(Muhammad is indeed the name which my family gave me.) The Jew said, 'I came to ask you about something.' The Messenger of Allah replied,

«أَيَنْفَعُكَ شَيْئًا إِنْ حَدَّثْتُكَ؟»

(Would it benefit you if I replied to your question) He said, 'I will hear it with my ear.' The Messenger of Allah poked the ground with a staff he had and said,

«سَلْ»

(Ask.) The Jew said, 'Where will the people be when the earth will be changed to another earth and so will the heavens' The Messenger of Allah said,

«هُمْ فِي الظُّلْمَةِ دُونَ الجَسْرِ»

لأقاف؟ فزاج! سانلا لوأ نمف: لأق

«فُقَرَاءُ المُهَاجِرِينَ»

لأق؟ فنجل نولخدي نيح مهتفحت امف: يذوهيلا لأق ف ،

«زِيَادَةُ كَيْدِ التُّونِ»

لأق؟ امرثا يف مهواذغ امف: لأق

«يُنْحَرُ لَهُمْ ثَوْرُ الجَبَّةِ الَّذِي كَانَ يَأْكُلُ مِنْ
أَطْرَافِهَا»

لأق؟ هيلع مهبارش امف: لأق

«مِنْ عَيْنٍ فِيهَا تُسَمَّى سَلْسَبِيلًا»

لأق. نالجر وأ لجر وأ يبن الإ ضررألا لهأ نم دحأ مملعي ال عيش نع لكلأسأ تئجو: لأق ،تقدص: لأق .

«أَيَنْفَعُكَ إِنْ حَدَّثْتُكَ؟»

لاق، دلولا نع لئأسأ تئج: لاق. يئذأب عمسأ: لاق

«مَاءُ الرَّجُلِ أْبَيْضٌ، وَمَاءُ الْمَرْأَةِ أَصْفَرٌ، فَإِذَا
اجْتَمَعَا فَعَلَا مَنِ الرَّجُلِ مَنِ الْمَرْأَةِ، أَذْكَرًا يَأْذُنُ
اللَّهِ تَعَالَى، وَإِذَا عَلَا مَنِ الْمَرْأَةِ مَنِ الرَّجُلِ، أَتْنَا
يَأْذُنُ اللَّهِ»

وسلم هيلع مللا ملصلللا لوسرر لاقف، فرصنا مئ يبزل لئنإو تتقدص دقل: يئوهيلا لاق

«لَقَدْ سَأَلَنِي هَذَا عَنِ الَّذِي سَأَلَنِي عَنْهُ، وَمَا لِي
عِلْمٌ بِشَيْءٍ مِنْهُ حَتَّى أَتَانِي اللَّهُ بِهِ»

(In the darkness before the Bridge (Jasr).) He asked, `Who will be the first to pass it' He said, (The poor emigrants (Muhajirin).) He asked, `What will their (refreshment) be when they enter Paradise' He said, (The caul of fish liver.) He asked, `What will they have after that' He said, (A bull of Paradise which grazed through its pathways will be slaughtered for them.) He asked, `From what will they drink' He said, (From a fountain whose name is Salsabil.) He said, `You have said the truth. I have come to ask you something about which none of the inhabitants of the earth knows, with the exception of a Prophet or one or two other men.' He said, (Would you benefit by me informing you about it) He replied, `I would listen. I have come to ask you about the child.' He said, (The fluid of the man is white, and the woman's is yellow. When they meet, if the discharge of the man is greater than that of the woman, then it becomes a male, by Allah's permission. When the womans discharge is greater than the man's, it becomes a female by Allah's permission.) The Jew said, `You have told the truth and are indeed a Prophet.' Then he left. So Allah's Messenger said; (He asked me such things that I had no knowledge of it until Allah gave it to me.) Allah said next,

(وَبَرَزُوا لِلَّهِ)

(and they will appear before Allah), describing when the creatures will be resurrected before Allah from their graves,

(الْوَاحِدُ الْقَهَّارُ)

(the One, the Irresisti- ble.) Who has full power and control over all things and to Whom the necks and minds are subservient.

(وَتَرَى الْمُجْرِمِينَ يَوْمَئِذٍ مُّقْرَّنِينَ فِي الْأَصْفَادِ -
سَرَابِيلُهُمْ مِّنْ قَطِرَانٍ وَتَغْشَىٰ وُجُوهَهُمُ النَّارُ -
لِيَجْزِيَ اللَّهُ كُلَّ نَفْسٍ مَّا كَسَبَتْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَرِيعُ
الْحِسَابِ)

(49. And you will see the criminals that Day, Muqarranun (bound together) in fetters.) (50. Their garments will be of Qatiran (tar), and fire will cover their faces.) (51. That Allah may requite each person according to what he has earned. Truly, Allah is swift at reckoning.)

The Condition of the criminals on the Day of Resurrection

Allah said,

(يَوْمَ تُبَدَّلُ الْأَرْضُ غَيْرَ الْأَرْضِ وَالسَّمَوَاتُ)

(On the Day when the earth will be changed to another earth and so will be the heavens) `and the creations will be brought before their Lord, and you, O Muhammad, will witness the criminals who committed the crimes of Kufr and mischief,'

(مُّقْرَّنِينَ)

(Muqarranin) bound together, each with his or her like, just as Allah said,

(احْشُرُوا الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا وَأَزْوَاجَهُمْ)

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

(وَإِذَا النُّفُوسُ زُوِّجَتْ)

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

(وَإِذَا أُلْفُوا مِنْهَا مَكَانًا ضَيِّقًا مُّقْرَّنِينَ دَعَوْا هُنَالِكَ
نُبُورًا)

(And when they shall be thrown into a narrow place thereof, chained together, they will exclaim therein for destruction.))25:13(and,

وَالشَّيْطِينَ كُلَّ بَنَّاءٍ وَغَوَّاصٍ - وَءَاخِرِينَ
مُقَرَّنِينَ فِي الْأَصْفَادِ)

(And also the Shayatin from the Jinn (including) every kind of builder and diver, and also others bound in fetters.)38:37-38(Allah said next,

(سَرَّابِيلُهُمْ مِّنْ قَطِرَانَ)

(Their garments will be of Qatiran (pitch),) that is used to coat camels. Qatadah commented that Qatiran (tar) is one of the fastest objects to catch fire. Ibn `Abbas used to say that the Qatiran, mentioned in the Ayah, is dissolved lead. It is possible that this Ayah reads as: (سَرَّابِيلُهُمْ) (سَرَّابِيلُهُمْ) referring to heated lead that has reached tremendous heat, according to Mujahid, Ikrimah, Sa`id bin Jubayr Al-Hasan and Qatadah. Allah said next,

(وَتَعَشَىٰ وُجُوهُهُمْ النَّارُ)

(and fire will cover their faces), which is similar to His other statement,

(تَلْفَحُ وُجُوهُهُمْ النَّارُ وَهُمْ فِيهَا كَالِحُونَ)

(The Fire will burn their faces, and therein they will grin, with displaced lips.)23:104(Imam Ahmad recorded that Yahya bin Abi Ishaq said that Aban bin Yazid said that Yahya bin Abi Kathir said that Zayd bin Abi Salam said that Abu Malik Al-Ash`ari said that the Messenger of Allah said,

«أَرْبَعٌ فِي أُمَّتِي مِنْ أَمْرِ الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ لَا يَبْرُكُونَ فِيهَا: الْفَخْرُ بِالْأَنْسَابِ، وَالطَّعْنُ فِي الْأَنْسَابِ، وَالسُّتْسُقَاءُ بِالنُّجُومِ، وَالنِّيَاحَةُ عَلَى الْمَيِّتِ، وَالنِّيَاحَةُ إِذَا لَمْ تَنْبُ قَبْلَ مَوْتِهَا، يُقَامُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَعَلَيْهَا سِرْبَالٌ مِنْ قَطِرَانَ وَدِرْعٌ مِنْ جَرَبٍ»

(Four characteristics from the time of Jahiliyyah will remain in my Ummah, since they will not abandon them: boasting about their family lineage, discrediting family ties, seeking rain through the stars, and wailing for their dead. Verily, if she who wails, dies before she repents from her behavior, she will be resurrected on the Day of Resurrection while wearing a dress of Qatiran and a cloak of mange.) Muslim collected this Hadith. Allah said next,

(لِيَجْزِيَ اللَّهُ كُلَّ نَفْسٍ مَّا كَسَبَتْ)

(That Allah may requite each person according to what he has earned.) meaning, on the Day of Resurrection. Allah said in another Ayah,

(لِيَجْزِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسَاءُوا بِمَا عَمِلُوا)

(That He may requite those who do evil with that which they have done.))53:31(Allah said here,

(إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ)

(Truly, Allah is swift at reckoning.) when He wills to reckon a servants of His, for He knows everything and nothing ever escapes His observation. Verily, His power over all of His creation is the same as His power over one creature,

(مَّا خَلَقْتُمْ وَلَا بَعْتُمْ إِلَّا كَنَفْسٍ وَحِدَةٍ)

(The creation of you all and the resurrection of you all are only as a single person.)31:28(And this is why Mujahid said,

(سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ)

(swift at reckoning), means "keeping count."

(هَذَا بَلَّغٌ لِلنَّاسِ وَلِيُنذِرُوا بِهِ وَلِيَعْلَمُوا أَنَّمَا هُوَ إِلَهُ وَاحِدٌ وَلِيَذَّكَّرَ أُولُوا الْأَلْبَابِ)

(52. This (Qur'an) is a Message for mankind (and a clear proof against them), in order that they may be warned thereby, and that they may know that He is the only One God and that men of understanding may take heed.)

Allah states that this Qur'an is a Message for mankind,

(لَا نُذِرْكُمْ بِهِ وَمَنْ بَلَغَ)

((So) that I may therewith warn you and whomsoever it may reach.))6:19(This Qur'an is for all mankind and the Jinns, just as Allah said in the beginning of this Surah,

(الر كِتَابٌ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ لِتُخْرِجَ النَّاسَ مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ)

(Alif-Lam-Ra. (This is) a Book which We have revealed unto you in order that you might lead mankind out of darkness into light.))14:1(Allah said next,

(وَلِيُنذِرُوا بِهِ)

(in order that they may be warned thereby), or to receive and draw lessons from it,

(وَلِيَعْلَمُوا أَنَّمَا هُوَ إِلَهٌ وَاحِدٌ)

(and that they may know that He is the only One God) using its proofs and evidences that testify that there is no true deity except Allah,

(وَلِيَذَّكَّرَ أُولُوا الْأَلْبَابِ)

(and that men of understanding may take heed.) meaning those who have good minds. aThis is the end of the Tafsir of Surah Ibrahim, and all praise is due to Allah.

The Tafsir of Surat Al-Hijr

(Chapter -15)

Which was revealed in Makkah

(بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ)

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

(الرَّ تِلْكَ آيَاتُ الْكِتَابِ وَقُرَّانٍ مُّبِينٍ - رَبَّمَا
يَوَدُّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَوْ كَانُوا مُسْلِمِينَ - ذَرَّهُمْ
يَأْكُلُوا وَيَتَمَتَّعُوا وَيُلْهِمُ الْأُمْلُ فَسَوْفَ يَعْلَمُونَ)

(1. Alif-Lam-Ra. These are Ayat of the Book and a plain Qur'an.) (2. How much would those who disbelieved wish that they had been Muslims.) (3. Leave them to eat and enjoy, and let them be preoccupied with (false) hope. They will come to know!)

The Disbelievers will someday wish that They had been Muslims

We have already discussed the letters which appear at the beginning of some Surahs. Allah said:

(رَبَّمَا يَوَدُّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا)

(How much would those who disbelieved wish) Here Allah tells us that they will regret having lived in disbelief, and will wish that they had been Muslims in this world. Regarding Allah's saying,

(رَبَّمَا يَوَدُّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَوْ كَانُوا مُسْلِمِينَ)

(How much would those who disbelieved wish that they had been Muslims.) Sufyan Ath-Thawri reported from Salamah bin Kuhayl, who reported from Abi Az-Za`ra', from `Abdullah, who said: "This is about the Jahannamiyyun (the sinners among the believers who will stay in Hell for some time), when they)the disbelievers(see them being brought out of Hell."

(رَبَّمَا يَوَدُّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَوْ كَانُوا مُسْلِمِينَ)

(How much would those who disbelieved wish that they had been Muslims.) Ibn Jarir reported that Ibn `Abbas and Anas bin Malik explained that this Ayah refers to the Day when Allah will detain the sinful Muslims in Hell along with the idolators. He said: "The idolators will say to them, `What you used to worship on earth has not helped you.' Then by virtue of His mercy, Allah will be angry for their sake, and He will remove them)from it(. That is when

(رَبَّمَا يَوَدُّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَوْ كَانُوا مُسْلِمِينَ)

(How much would those who disbelieved wish that they had been Muslims)."

(ذَرَّهُمْ يَأْكُلُوا وَيَتَمَتَّعُوا)

(Leave them to eat and enjoy) this is a stern and definitive threat for them, like His saying,

(قُلْ تَمَتَّعُوا فَإِنَّ مَصِيرَكُمْ إِلَى النَّارِ)

(Say: "Enjoy your brief life! But certainly, your destination is the Fire!") 14:30

(كُلُوا وَتَمَتَّعُوا قَلِيلًا إِنَّكُمْ مُجْرِمُونَ)

((O disbelievers!) Eat and enjoy yourselves (in this worldly life) for a little while. Verily, you are the guilty.) 77:46 (Allah says:

وَيُلْهِمُهُمُ الْأَمْلُ)

(let them be preoccupied with false hope.) i.e., distracted from repentance and turning to Allah, for

(فَسَوْفَ يَعْلَمُونَ)

(They will soon come to know!) that is, their punishment.

(وَمَا أَهْلَكْنَا مِنْ قَرْيَةٍ إِلَّا وَلَهَا كِتَابٌ مَّعْلُومٌ - مَا
تَسْبِقُ مِنْ أُمَّةٍ أَجَلَهَا وَمَا يَسْتَأْخِرُونَ)

(4. And never did We destroy a township but there was a known decree for it.) (5. No nation can advance its term, nor delay it.)

Every Township has its allotted Time

Allah is informing us that He never destroys a township until He has established evidences for it and its allotted time has ended. When the time for a nation's destruction has come, He never delays it, and He never moves its appointed time forward. This was a message and a warning to the people of Makkah, telling them to give up their Shirk, their stubbornness and disbelief for which they deserved to be destroyed.

(وَقَالُوا يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِي نُزِّلَ عَلَيْهِ الذِّكْرُ إِنَّكَ لَمَجْنُونٌ
- لَوْ مَا تَأْتِينَا بِالْمَلَكَةِ إِنْ كُنْتَ مِنَ الصَّادِقِينَ -
مَا نُنَزِّلُ الْمَلَكَةَ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَمَا كَانُوا إِذَا

مُنْظَرِينَ - إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ
(

(6. And they say: "O you (Muhammad) to whom the Dhikr (the Qur'an) has been revealed! Verily, you are a madman!) (7. "Why do you not bring angels to us if you are of the truthful") (8. We do not send the angels down except with the truth, and in that case, they (the disbelievers) would have no respite!) (9. Verily, We, it is We Who revealed the Dhikr (i.e. the Qur'an) and surely We will guard it (from corruption).)

The Accusation that the Prophet was a Madman and Demands for Him to bring down Angels

Allah tells us about the disbelief, arrogance and stubbornness of the disbelievers as reflected in their words:

يَأْيُهَا الَّذِي نُزِّلَ عَلَيْهِ الذِّكْرُ

(O you (Muhammad) to whom the Dhikr (the Qur'an) has been revealed!) i.e., the one who claims to receive it.

إِنَّكَ لَمَجْنُونٌ

(Verily, you are a mad man!) i.e., by your invitation to us to follow you and leave the way of our forefathers.

لَوْ مَا تَأْتِينَا بِالْمَلِكَةِ

(Why do you not bring angels to us) i.e., to bear witness to the accuracy of what you have brought to us is true, if you are really telling the truth This is similar to what Pharaoh said:

فَلَوْلَا أُلْقِيَ عَلَيْهِ أَسْوِرَةٌ مِّنْ ذَهَبٍ أَوْ جَاءَ مَعَهُ الْمَلِكَةُ مُقْتَرِنِينَ

(Why then are not golden bracelets bestowed on him, or angels sent along with him)(43:53). And Allah said:

وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ لَا يَرْجُونَ لِقَاءَنَا لَوْلَا أُنزِلَ عَلَيْنَا
الْمَلٰٓئِكَةُ أَوْ نَرَىٰ رَبَّنَا لَقَدِ اسْتَكْبَرُوا فِي أَنفُسِهِمْ
وَعَتَوْا عُتُوًّا كَبِيرًا - يَوْمَ يَرَوْنَ الْمَلٰٓئِكَةَ لَا
بُشْرَىٰ يَوْمَئِذٍ لِلْمُجْرِمِينَ وَيَقُولُونَ حَجْرًا
مَّحْجُورًا)

(And those who do not expect a meeting with Us (i. e., those who deny the Day of Resurrection and the life of the Hereafter), say: "Why are not the angels sent down to us, or why do we not see our Lord" Indeed they think too highly of themselves, and are scornful with great pride. On the Day that they do see the angels - there will be no good news given on that day to the guilty. And they (angels) will say: "All kinds of glad tidings are forbidden for you.") (25:21-22)
For this reason Allah said:

(مَا نُنزِّلُ الْمَلٰٓئِكَةَ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَمَا كَانُوا إِذَا
مُنظَرِينَ)

(We do not send the angels down except with the truth, and in that case, they (the disbelievers) would have no respite!) Mujahid said in this Ayah:

(مَا نُنزِّلُ الْمَلٰٓئِكَةَ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ)

(We do not send the angels down except with the truth) "i.e., (with the Message and the punishment." Then Allah, may He be exalted, stated that He is the One Who revealed the Dhikr to him, which is the Qur'an, and He is protecting it from being changed or altered.

(وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا مِن قَبْلِكَ فِي شِيَعِ الْأَوَّلِينَ - وَمَا
يَأْتِيهِمْ مِّن رَّسُولٍ إِلَّا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِئُونَ -
كَذٰلِكَ نَسْلُكُهُ فِي قُلُوبِ الْمُجْرِمِينَ - لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ
بِهِ وَقَدْ خَلَتْ سُنَّةُ الْأَوَّلِينَ)

(10. Indeed, We sent (Messengers) before you (O Muhammad) amongst the earlier communities.) (11. And there never came a Messenger to them but that they mocked him.)

(12. Thus We allow it to enter the hearts of the guilty.) (13. They would not believe in it (the Qur'an); and already the example of the ancients has gone forth.)

The Idolators of Every Nation made a Mockery of their Messengers

Consoling His Messenger for the rejection of the disbelieving Quraysh, Allah says that He has sent Messengers before him to the nations of the past, and no Messenger came to a nation but they rejected him and mocked him. Then He tells him that He lets disbelief enter the hearts of those sinners who are too stubborn and too arrogant to follow His guidance.

(كَذَلِكَ نَسْلُكُهُ فِي قُلُوبِ الْمُجْرِمِينَ)

(Thus We allow it to enter the hearts of the guilty.) Anas and Al-Hasan Al-Basri said that this referred to Shirk.

(وَقَدْ خَلَّتْ سُنَّةُ الْأَوَّلِينَ)

(and already the example of the ancients has gone forth.) meaning the destruction wrought by Allah on those who rejected His Messengers, and how He saved His Prophets and their followers in this world and in the Hereafter, is well known.

(وَلَوْ فَتَحْنَا عَلَيْهِم بَابًا مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ فَظَلُّوا فِيهِ
يَعْرُجُونَ - لَقَالُوا إِنَّمَا سُكَّرَتْ أَبْصَارُنَا بَلْ نَحْنُ
قَوْمٌ مَّسْحُورُونَ)

(14. And even if We opened to them a gate to the heavens and they were to continue ascending through it (all day long).) (15. They would surely say (in the evening): "Our eyes have been (as if) dazzled (we have not seen any angel or heaven). Nay, we are a people bewitched.")

The Stubborn Disbelievers will never believe, no matter what Signs and Wonders They see

Allah explains the extent of their disbelief and stubborn resistance to the truth by stating that even if a door to heaven were to be opened for them, and they were to be taken up through it, they would still not believe. Rather, they would say:

(إِنَّمَا سُكَّرَتْ أَبْصَارُنَا)

(Our eyes have been (as if) dazzled.) Mujahid, Ibn Kathir and Ad-Dahhak said, ")this means(our vision has been blocked." Qatadah narrated that Ibn ` Abbas said, ")this means(our eyesight has been taken away." Al-` Awfi reported that Ibn ` Abbas said, ")this means(we were confused and put under a spell."

(سُكِّرَتْ أَبْصَرُنَا)

(Our eyes have been (as if) dazzled.) Ibn Zayd said: "The one who is dazzled)lit. intoxicated(is the one who cannot reason."

وَلَقَدْ جَعَلْنَا فِي السَّمَاءِ بُرُوجًا وَزَيَّنَّاهَا لِلنَّاظِرِينَ
- وَحَفَظْنَاهَا مِنْ كُلِّ شَيْطَانٍ رَجِيمٍ - إِلَّا مَنْ
اسْتَرَقَ السَّمْعَ فَاتَّبَعَهُ شِهَابٌ مُبِينٌ - وَالْأَرْضَ
مَدَدْنَاهَا وَأَلْقَيْنَا فِيهَا رَوْسِيَ وَأُنْبِئْنَا فِيهَا مِنْ كُلِّ
شَيْءٍ مَّوْزُونٍ - وَجَعَلْنَا لَكُمْ فِيهَا مَعِيشَ وَمَنْ
لَسْتُمْ لَهُ بِرَزَاقِينَ)

(16. And indeed, We have put the big stars in the heaven and We beautified it for the beholders.) (17. And We have guarded it (near heaven) from every outcast Shaytan (devil).) (18. Except him (devil) who steals the hearing, then he is pursued by a clear flaming fire.) (19. And We have spread out the earth, and have placed firm mountains in it, and caused all kinds of things to grow in it, in due proportion.) (20. And in it We have provided means of living, for you and for those whom you provide not.)

The Power of Allah and His Signs in the Heavens and on Earth

To those who ponder, and look repeatedly at the dazzling signs and wonders that are to be seen in the creation, Allah mentions His creation of the heavens, with their immense height, and both the fixed and moving heavenly bodies with which He has adorned it. Here, Mujahid and Qatadah said that Buruj)big stars(refers to the heavenly bodies. (I say): This is like the Ayah :

(تَبَارَكَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ فِي السَّمَاءِ بُرُوجًا)

(Blessed be He Who has placed the big stars in the heavens.))25:61(` Atiyah Al-` Awfi said: "Buruj here refers to sentinel fortresses." He made the "shooting stars" to guard it against the evil devils who try to listen to information conveyed at the highest heights. If any devil breaches it and advances hoping to listen, a clear "shooting star" comes to him and destroys

him. He may already have passed on whatever he heard before the fire hit him, to another devil below him; the latter will then take it to his friends)among humans(, as is stated in the Sahih. Explaining this Ayah, Al-Bukhari reported from Abu Hurayrah that the Prophet said:

«إِذَا قَضَى اللَّهُ الْأَمْرَ فِي السَّمَاءِ ضَرَبَتْ
الْمَلَائِكَةُ بِأَجْنِحَتِهَا خُضْعَانًا لِقَوْلِهِ كَأَنَّهُ سِلْسِلَةٌ
عَلَى صَفْوَانٍ»

(When Allah decrees any matter in heaven, the angels beat their wings in submission to His Word,)with a sound like(a chain)beating(on a smooth rock.") (`Ali and other subnarrators said, "The sound reaches them.") "When the fright leaves their (angels') hearts, they (angels) are asked: `What did your Lord say' They respond: "The truth. And He is the Most High, the Most Great.' So those who hope to hear something listen, and they are standing one above the other." Sufyan)the narrator(described them with a gesture, spreading the fingers of his right hand and holding it in such a way that the fingers were above one another. "Sometimes the flaming fire hits one of these listeners before he is able to convey what he has heard to the one who is beneath him, and he is burned up, or sometimes the fire does not hit him until he has pit on to the one beneath him, so he brings it to the earth." Perhaps Sufyan said: "...until it reaches the earth and he puts it into the mouth of the sorcerer or fortune-teller, so that after telling a hundred lies he gets something right, and the people say, `Did he not tell us that on such and such a day such and such would happen, and we found it to be the truth among the statements which were heard from heaven.'" Then Allah mentions His creation of the earth and how He spread it out, and the firm mountains, valleys, lands and sands that he has placed in it, and the plants and fruits that He causes to grow in their appropriate locations.

(مِنْ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ مَّوْزُونٍ)

(all kinds of things in due proportion.) Ibn `Abbas said that this means with their predetermined proportions. This was also the opinion of Sa`id bin Jubayr, `Ikrimah, Abu Malik, Mujahid, Al-Hakim bin `Utaybah, Al-Hasan bin Muhammad, Abu Salih and Qatadah.

(وَجَعَلْنَا لَكُمْ فِيهَا مَعِيشًا)

(And We have provided therein means of living, for you) Here Allah mentions that He created the earth with different means of provisions and livelihood of all kinds.

(وَمَنْ لَسْتُمْ لَهُ بِرَزَقِينَ)

(and for those whom you provide not.) Mujahid said, "This refers to the riding animals and the cattle." Ibn Jarir said, "They are slaves, men and women, as well as the animals and the cattle. The meaning is that Allah, may He be exalted, is reminding them of the ways of earning provision that He has made easy for them, and of the animals that He has subjugated for them to ride and to eat, and the slaves from whom they benefit, but the provision of all of these comes from Allah alone."

(وَإِنْ مِنْ شَيْءٍ إِلَّا عِنْدَنَا خَزَائِنُهُ وَمَا نُنزِّلُهُ إِلَّا بِقَدَرٍ مَّعْلُومٍ - وَأَرْسَلْنَا الرِّيَّاحَ لَوَاقِحَ فَأَنْزَلْنَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَسْقَيْنَاكُمُوهُ وَمَا أَنْتُمْ لَهُ بِخَازِنِينَ - وَإِنَّا لَنَحْنُ نُحْيِي وَنُمِيتُ وَنَحْنُ الْوَارِثُونَ - وَلَقَدْ عَلِمْنَا الْمُسْتَقْدِمِينَ مِنْكُمْ وَلَقَدْ عَلِمْنَا الْمُسْتَأْخِرِينَ - وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ يَحْشُرُهُمْ إِنَّهُ حَكِيمٌ عَلِيمٌ)

(21. And there is not a thing, but the supplies for it are with Us, and We do not send it down but in a known measure.) (22. And We send the winds fertilizing, then We cause the water to descend from the sky, and We give it to you to drink, and it is not you who are the owners of its supply.) (23. And certainly We! It is We Who give life, and cause death, and We are the Inheritors.) (24. And indeed, We know the first generations of you who have passed away, and indeed, We know the present generations of you (mankind), and also those who will come afterwards.) (25. And verily, your Lord will gather them together. Truly, He is Most Wise, (and Knowing.)

The Supplies for All Things are with Allah

Allah tells us that He is the Owner of all things, and that everything is easy for Him. He has the supplies for all things with Him.

(وَمَا نُنزِّلُهُ إِلَّا بِقَدَرٍ مَّعْلُومٍ)

(and We do not send it down but in a known measure.) meaning, as He wills and as He wants. Doing so out of His great wisdom and mercy towards His servants, in a way that He is under no obligation to do. But He has decreed mercy for Himself. Yazid bin Abi Ziyad reported from Abu Juhayfah that `Abdullah said: "No year has more rain than another, but Allah divides the rain between them as He wills, it rains here a year and there a year. Then he recited:

(وَإِنْ مِنْ شَيْءٍ إِلَّا عِنْدَنَا خَزَائِنُهُ)

(And there is not a thing, but the supplies for it are with Us...) Reported by Ibn Jarir.

Benefits of the Winds

(وَأَرْسَلْنَا الرِّيحَ لَوَاقِحَ)

(And We send the winds fertilizing.) i.e., fertilizing the clouds so that they give rain, and fertilizing the trees so that they open their leaves and blossoms. These winds are mentioned here in the plural form because they give results, unlike the barren wind (Ar-Rih Al-'Aqim, see Adh-Dhariyat 51:41), which is mentioned in the singular and described as barren since it does not produce anything; because results can only be produced when there are two or more things.

(وَأَرْسَلْنَا الرِّيحَ لَوَاقِحَ)

(And We sent the winds fertilizing.) `Abdullah bin Mas`ud said, "The wind is sent bearing water from the sky, then it fertilizes the clouds until rain begins to generously fall, just as the milk of the pregnant camel flows generously." This was also the opinion of Ibn `Abbas, Ibrahim An-Nakha`i and Qatadah. Ad-Dahhak said: "Allah sends it to the clouds and it gets fertilized and becomes full of water." `Ubayd bin `Umayr Al-Laythi said: "Allah sends the wind which stirs up the earth, then Allah sends the wind which raises clouds, then Allah sends the wind which forms clouds, then Allah sends the fertilizing wind which pollinates the trees. Then he recited,

(وَأَرْسَلْنَا الرِّيحَ لَوَاقِحَ)

(And We sent the winds fertilizing,)

Fresh Water is a Blessing from Allah

(فَأَسْقَيْنَاكُمُوهُ)

(and We give it to you to drink,) This means, "and We send it down to you fresh and sweet, so that you can drink it; if We had wished, We could have made it salty (and undrinkable)", as Allah points out in another Ayah in Surat Al-Waqi`ah, where He says:

(أَفَرَأَيْتُمُ الْمَاءَ الَّذِي تَشْرَبُونَ - أَعْنَمُ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ
مِنَ الْمُزْنِ أَمْ نَحْنُ الْمُنزِلُونَ - لَوْ نَشَاءُ جَعَلْنَاهُ
أَجَاغًا فَلَوْلَا تَشْكُرُونَ)

(Tell Me! The water that you drink, is it you who cause it to come down from the rain clouds, or are We the cause of it coming down If We willed, We verily could make it salty (and undrinkable), why then do you not give thanks (to Allah)) (56:68-70). And Allah says:

(هُوَ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً لَكُمْ مِنْهُ شَرَابٌ
وَمِنْهُ شَجَرٌ فِيهِ تُسِيمُونَ)

(He it is Who sends water down from the sky; from it you drink and from it (grows) the vegetation on which you send your cattle to pasture.) (16:10)

(وَمَا أَنْتُمْ لَهُ بِخَازِنِينَ)

(and it is not you who are the owners of its supply.) The meaning is, "You are not taking care of it; rather We send it down and take care of it for you, making springs and wells flourish on the earth. " If Allah so willed, He could make it disappear, but by His mercy He sends it down and makes it fresh and sweet, maintaining the springs, wells, rivers and so on, so that they may drink from it all year long, water their livestock and irrigate their crops.

The Power of Allah to initiate and renew Creation

(وَإِنَّا لَنَحْنُ نُحْيِي وَنُمِيتُ)

(And certainly We! We it is Who give life, and cause death,) Here Allah tells us of His power to initiate creation and renew it. He is the One Who brings life to creatures out of nothingness, then He causes them to die, then He will resurrect all of them on the Day when He will gather them together. He also tells us that He will inherit the earth and everyone on it, and then it is to Him that they will return. Then He tells us about His perfect knowledge of them, the first and the last of them. He says

(وَلَقَدْ عَلِمْنَا الْمُسْتَقْدِمِينَ مِنْكُمْ)

(And indeed, We know the first generations of you who had passed away...). Ibn `Abbas said, "The first generations are all those who have passed away since the time of Adam. The present generations and those who will come afterward refer to those who are alive now and who are yet to come, until the Day of Resurrection." Something similar was narrated from `Ikrimah, Mujahid, Ad-Dahhak, Qatadah, Muhammad bin Ka`b, Ash-Sha`bi and others. Ibn Jarir reported from Muhammad bin Abi Ma`shar, from his father, that he heard `Awn bin `Abdullah discussing the following Ayah with Muhammad bin Ka`b:

(وَلَقَدْ عَلِمْنَا الْمُسْتَقْدِمِينَ مِنْكُمْ وَلَقَدْ عَلِمْنَا
الْمُسْتَخْرِينَ)

(And indeed, We know the first generations of you who had passed away, and indeed, We know the present generations of you (mankind), and also those who will come afterwards), and it was stated that it refers to the rows for prayer. Muhammad bin Ka`b said, "This is not the case.

(وَلَقَدْ عَلِمْنَا الْمُسْتَقْدِمِينَ مِنْكُمْ)

(And indeed, We know the first generations of you who had passed away) it refers to those who are dead or have been killed, and;

(الْمُسْتَخْرِينَ)

(and also those who will come afterwards) meaning those who have yet to be created.

(وَإِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ يَحْشُرُهُمْ إِنَّهُ حَكِيمٌ عَلِيمٌ)

(And verily your Lord will gather them together. Truly, He is Most Wise, (and) Knowing)." `Awn bin `Abdullah said, "May Allah help you and reward you with good."

(وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ صَلْصَلٍ مِّنْ حَمَإٍ
مَّسْنُونٍ - وَالْجَانَّ خَلَقْنَاهُ مِنْ قَبْلُ مِنْ نَّارِ السَّمُومِ
(

(26. And indeed, We created man from dried (sounding) clay of altered mud.) (27. And the Jinn, We created earlier from the smokeless flame of fire.)

The Substances from which Mankind and Jinns were created

Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid and Qatadah said that Salsal means dry mud. The apparent meaning is similar to the Ayah:

(خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ صَلْصَلٍ كَالْفَخَّارِ - وَخَلَقَ
الْجَانَّ مِنْ مَّارِجٍ مِّنْ نَّارٍ)

(He created man (Adam) from sounding clay like the potter's clay, And He created the Jinns from a smokeless flame of fire.) (55:14-15) It was also reported from Mujahid that,

(صَلْصَلٍ)

(dried (sounding) clay) means "putrid", but it is more appropriate to interpret an Ayah with another Ayah.

(مِّنْ حَمَإٍ مَّسْنُونٍ)

(of altered mud) means the dried clay that comes from mud, which is soil. "Altered" here means smooth.

(وَالْجَانَّ خَلَقْنَاهُ مِن قَبْلُ)

(And the Jinn, We created earlier) means before creating humans.

(مِن نَّارِ السَّمُومِ)

(from the smokeless flame of fire.) Ibn `Abbas said, "It is the smokeless flame that kills." Abu Dawud At-Tayalisi said that Shu`bah narrated to them from Abu Ishaq, who said: "I visited `Umar Al-Asamm when he was sick, and he said: `Shall I not tell you a Hadith that I heard from `Abdullah bin Mas`ud He said: `This smokeless flame is one of the seventy parts of the smokeless fire from which the Jinn were created. Then he recited,

(وَالْجَانَّ خَلَقْنَاهُ مِن قَبْلُ مِن نَّارِ السَّمُومِ)

(And the Jinn, We created earlier from the smokeless flame of fire)." The following is found in the Sahih,

«خُلِقَتِ الْمَلَائِكَةُ مِن نُورٍ، وَخُلِقَتِ الْجَانُّ مِن مَّارِجٍ مِّن نَّارٍ، وَخُلِقَ آدَمُ مِمَّا وُصِفَ لَكُمْ»

(The angels were created from light, the Jinn were created from a smokeless flame of fire, and Adam was created from that which has been described to you.) The Ayah is intended to point out the noble nature, good essence and pure origin of Adam.

(وَإِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ إِنِّي خَلِقُ بَشَرًا مِّن صَّالٍ مِّنْ حَمَإٍ مَّسْنُونٍ - فَإِذَا سَوَّيْتُهُ وَنَفَخْتُ فِيهِ مِن رُّوحِي فَقَعُوا لَهُ سَاجِدِينَ - فَسَجَدَ الْمَلَائِكَةُ كُلُّهُمْ أَجْمَعُونَ - إِلَّا إِبْلِيسَ أَبَى أَن يَكُونَ مَعَ السَّاجِدِينَ - قَالَ يَا إِبْلِيسُ مَا لَكَ أَلَّا تَكُونَ مَعَ

السَّجِدِينَ - قَالَ لَمْ أَكُنْ لِأَسْجُدَ لِبَشَرٍ خَلَقْتَهُ مِنْ
صَلْصَلٍ مِّنْ حَمَآءٍ مَّسْنُونٍ)

(28. And (remember) when your Lord said to the angels: "I am going to create a man (Adam) from dried (sounding) clay of altered mud. ") (29. "So, when I have fashioned him completely and breathed into him (Adam) of My spirit (the soul which I created for him,) then fall down, prostrating yourselves before him.") (30. So the angels prostrated themselves, all of them together.) (31. Except Iblis (Shaytan) - he refused to be among the prostrate.) (32. (Allah) said: "O Iblis! What is your reason for not being among the prostrate" (33.)Iblis(said: "I am not one to prostrate myself to a human, whom You created from dried (sounding) clay of altered mud.")

The creation of Adam, the Command to the Angels to prostrate to Him, and the Rebellion of Iblis

Allah informs us of how He mentioned Adam to His angels before He created him, and how He honored him by commanding the angels to prostrate to him. He mentions how His enemy Iblis, amidst all the angels, refused to prostrate to him out of envy, disbelief, stubbornness, arrogance, and false pride. This is why Iblis said:

لَمْ أَكُنْ لِأَسْجُدَ لِبَشَرٍ خَلَقْتَهُ مِنْ صَلْصَلٍ مِّنْ
حَمَآءٍ مَّسْنُونٍ)

(I am not one to prostrate myself to a human, whom You created from dried (sounding) clay of altered mud.) this is like when he said,

(أَنَا خَيْرٌ مِّنْهُ خَلَقْتَنِي مِنْ نَّارٍ وَخَلَقْتَهُ مِنْ طِينٍ)

(I am better than him (Adam), You created me from Fire and him You created from clay.)(7:12) and

(أَرَأَيْتَكَ هَذَا الَّذِي كَرَّمْتَ عَلَيَّ)

("Do you see this one whom You have honored above me..."))17:62(

(قَالَ فَاخْرُجْ مِنْهَا فَإِنَّكَ رَجِيمٌ - وَإِنَّ عَلَيْكَ اللَّعْنَةَ
إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ - قَالَ رَبِّ فَأَنْظِرْنِي إِلَى يَوْمِ

يُبعثونَ - قَالَ فَإِنَّكَ مِنَ الْمُنْظَرِينَ - إِلَى يَوْمِ الْوَقْتِ الْمَعْلُومِ)

(34. (Allah) said: "Then leave, for verily, you are an outcast. ") (35. "And verily, the curse shall be upon you until the Day of Recompense.") (36.)Iblis(said: "O my Lord! Then give me respite until the Day they (the dead) will be resurrected.") (37. Allah said: "Then verily, you are of those reprieved,") (38. "Until the Day of the time appointed.")

The Expulsion of Iblis from Jannah, and His Reprieve until the Day of Resurrection

Allah tells us how He issued an unconditional command to Iblis to leave the position he held among the highest of heights. He told him that he was an outcast, i.e., cursed, and that he would be followed by a curse that would hound him until the Day of Resurrection. It was reported that Sa'id bin Jubayr said: "When Allah cursed Iblis, his image into something different from that of the angels, and he made a sound like a bell. Every bell that rings on this earth until the Day of Resurrection is part of that. This was reported by Ibn Abi Hatim.

قَالَ رَبِّ بِمَا أَغْوَيْتَنِي لَأُزَيِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ
وَلَأُغْوِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ - إِلَّا عِبَادَكَ مِنْهُمْ
الْمُخْلِصِينَ - قَالَ هَذَا صِرَاطٌ عَلَيَّ مُسْتَقِيمٌ - إِنَّ
عِبَادِي لَيْسَ لَكَ عَلَيْهِمْ سُلْطَنٌ إِلَّا مَنْ اتَّبَعَكَ مِنَ
الْغَاوِينَ - وَإِنَّ جَهَنَّمَ لَمَوْعِدُهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ - لَهَا
سَبْعَةُ أَبْوَابٍ لِكُلِّ بَابٍ مِنْهُمْ جُزْءٌ مَّقْسُومٌ)

(39.)Iblis(said: "O my Lord! Because You misled me, I shall indeed adorn the path of error for them (mankind) on the earth, and I shall mislead them all.") (40. "Except Your chosen (guided) servants among them.") (41. (Allah) said: "This is the way which will lead straight to Me.") (42. "Certainly, you shall have no authority over My servants, except those of the astray who follow you.") (43. And surely, Hell is the place promised for them all.) (44. It has seven gates, for each of those gates is a class assigned.)

The Threat of Iblis to tempt Mankind, and Allah's Promise of Hell for him

Allah informed about the rebellion and arrogance of Iblis, in that he said to the Lord:

(بِمَا أَغْوَيْتَنِي)

(Because You misled me,) i.e., because You misled me and misguided me.

(لَأَزِينَنَّ لَهُمْ)

(I shall indeed adorn the path of error for them) meaning, for the progeny of Adam.

(فِي الْأَرْضِ)

(on the earth,) meaning - I will make sin dear to them, and will encourage, provoke and harass them to commit sin.

(وَلَأُغْوِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ)

(and I shall mislead them all.) meaning - just as You have misled me and have ordained that for me.

(إِلَّا عِبَادَكَ مِنْهُمُ الْمُخْلَصِينَ)

(Except Your chosen, (guided) servants among them.) This is like the Ayah:

(أَرَأَيْتَكَ هَذَا الَّذِي كَرَّمْتَنَا عَلَىٰ لَيْسَ لِئِنَّا أَخَّرْتَنَا إِلَىٰ
يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ لَأَحْتَنِكَنَّ ذُرِّيَّتَهُ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا)

("Do you see this one whom You have honored above me, if You give me respite until the Day of Resurrection, I will surely seize and mislead his offspring, all but a few!") (17:62).

(قَالَ)

((Allah) said), i.e., threatening and warning Iblis.

(هَذَا صِرَاطٌ عَلَيَّ مُسْتَقِيمٌ)

(This is the way which will lead straight to Me.) means, 'all of you will return to Me, and I will reward or punish you according to your deeds: if they are good then I will reward you, and if they are bad then I will punish you.' This is like the Ayah:

(إِنَّ رَبَّكَ لَبِالْمِرْصَادِ)

(Verily, your Lord is ever watchful.) (89:14) and

(وَعَلَى اللَّهِ قَصْدُ السَّبِيلِ)

(And it is up to Allah to show the right way.) (16:9)

(إِنَّ عِبَادِي لَيْسَ لَكَ عَلَيْهِمْ سُلْطَنٌ)

(Certainly, you shall have no authority over My servants) meaning, `you will have no way to reach those for whom I have decreed guidance.'

(إِلَّا مَنْ اتَّبَعَكَ مِنَ الْغَاوِينَ)

(except those of the astray who follow you.) Ibn Jarir mentioned that Yazid bin Qusayt said: "The Prophets used to have Masjids outside their cities, and if a Prophet wanted to consult with his Lord about something, he would go out to his place of worship and pray as Allah decreed. Then he would ask Him about whatever was concerning him. Once while a Prophet was in his place of worship, the enemy of Allah - meaning Iblis - came and sat between him and the Qiblah (direction of prayer). The Prophet said, `I seek refuge with Allah from the accursed Shaytan.' The enemy of Allah said, `Do you know who you are seeking refuge from Here he is!' The Prophet said, `I seek refuge with Allah from the accursed Shaytan', and he repeated that three times. Then the enemy of Allah said, `Tell me about anything in which you will be saved from me.' The Prophet twice said, `No, you tell me about something in which you can overpower the son of Adam' Each of them was insisting that the other answer first, then the Prophet said, Allah says,

(إِنَّ عِبَادِي لَيْسَ لَكَ عَلَيْهِمْ سُلْطَنٌ إِلَّا مَنْ اتَّبَعَكَ
مِنَ الْغَاوِينَ)

(Certainly, you shall have no authority over My servants, except those of the astray who follow you.) The enemy of Allah said, `I heard this before you were even born.' The Prophet said, `And Allah says,

(وَأِمَّا يَنْزَغَنَّكَ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ نَزْعٌ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ
إِنَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ)

(And if an evil whisper comes to you from Shaytan then seek refuge with Allah. Verily, He is All-Hearing, All-Knowing) (7: 200). By Allah, I never sense that you are near but I seek refuge with Allah from you.' The enemy of Allah said, `You have spoken the truth. In this way you will be

saved from me.' The Prophet said, `Tell me in what ways you overpower the son of Adam.' He said, `I seize him at times of anger and times of desire.'

(وَإِنَّ جَهَنَّمَ لَمَوْعِدُهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ)

(And surely, Hell is the place promised for them all.) meaning, Hell is the abode designated for all those who follow Iblis, as Allah says in the Qur'an:

(وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِهِ مِنَ الْأَحْزَابِ فَالنَّارُ مَوْعِدُهُ)

(but those of the sects (Jews, Christians and all the other non-Muslim nations) that reject it (the Qur'an), the Fire will be their promised meeting place.)(11:17)

The Gates of Hell are Seven

Then Allah tells us that Hell has seven gates:

(لِكُلِّ بَابٍ مِنْهُمْ جُزْءٌ مَقْسُومٌ)

(for each of those gates is a (special) class (of sinners) assigned.) means, for each gate a portion of the followers of Iblis have been decreed, and they will have no choice in the matter. May Allah save us from that. Each one will enter a gate according to his deeds, and will settle in a level of Hell according to his deeds. Ibn Abi Hatim recorded that Samurah bin Jundub reported from the Prophet about,

(لِكُلِّ بَابٍ مِنْهُمْ جُزْءٌ مَقْسُومٌ)

(for each of those gates is a class assigned.) He said,

«إِنَّ مِنْ أَهْلِ النَّارِ مَنْ تَأْخُذُهُ النَّارُ إِلَى كَعْبَيْهِ،
وَإِنَّ مِنْهُمْ مَنْ تَأْخُذُهُ النَّارُ إِلَى حُجْرَتِهِ، وَمِنْهُمْ
مَنْ تَأْخُذُهُ النَّارُ إِلَى تَرَاقِيهِ»

(Among the people of Hell are those whom the Fire will swallow up to the ankles, and those whom it will swallow up to the waist, and those whom it will swallow up to the collarbone.) The degree of which will depend upon their deeds. This is like the Ayah;

(لِكُلِّ بَابٍ مِنْهُمْ جُزْءٌ مَقْسُومٌ)

(for each of those gates is a class assigned.)

إِنَّ الْمُتَّقِينَ فِي جَنَّاتٍ وَعُيُونٍ - ادْخُلُوهَا بِسَلَامٍ
ءَامِنِينَ - وَنَزَعْنَا مَا فِي صُدُورِهِمْ مِّنْ غِلٍّ
إِخْوَانًا عَلَى سُرُرٍ مُّتَقَابِلِينَ - لَا يَمَسُّهُمْ فِيهَا
نَصَبٌ وَمَا هُمْ مِنْهَا بِمُخْرَجِينَ - نَبِيُّ عِبَادِي
أَنَا الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ - وَأَنَّ عَذَابِي هُوَ الْعَذَابُ
الْأَلِيمُ)

(45. Truly, those who have Taqwa, will dwell in Gardens and water springs.) (46. (It will be said to them): "Enter it in peace and security.") (47. And We shall remove any deep feeling of bitterness from their breasts. (So they will be like) brothers facing each other on thrones.) (48. No sense of fatigue shall touch them, nor shall they be asked to leave it. (49. Declare to My servants that I am truly the Forgiving, the Most Merciful.) (50. And that My torment is indeed the most painful torment.)

Description of the People of Paradise

Since Allah mentioned the condition of the people of Hell, He followed that by mentioning the people of Paradise. He tells us that they will dwell in Gardens and water springs.

ادْخُلُوهَا بِسَلَامٍ)

(Enter it in peace) meaning free of all problems.

ءَامِنِينَ)

(and security.) meaning free from all fear and concern. They will not have any fear of expulsion, nor will they fear that their condition will be disrupted or end.

وَنَزَعْنَا مَا فِي صُدُورِهِمْ مِّنْ غِلٍّ إِخْوَانًا عَلَى
سُرُرٍ مُّتَقَابِلِينَ)

(And We shall remove any deep feeling of bitterness from their breasts. (So they will be like) brothers facing each other on thrones.) Al-Qasim narrated that Abu Umamah said: "The people

of Paradise will enter Paradise with whatever enmity is left in their hearts from this world. Then, when they come together, Allah will remove whatever hatred the world has left in their hearts." Then he recited:

(وَنَزَعْنَا مَا فِي صُدُورِهِمْ مِّنْ غِلٍّ)

(And We shall remove any deep feeling of bitterness from their breasts.) This is how it was narrated in this report, but Al-Qasim bin `Abdur-Rahman is weak in his reports from Abu Umamah. However, this is in accord with the report in the Sahih where Qatadah says, "Abu Al-Mutawakkil An-Naji told us that Abu Sa`id Al-Khudri told them that the Messenger of Allah said:

«يَخْلَصُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ مِنَ النَّارِ، فَيُحْبَسُونَ عَلَى قَنْطَرَةٍ بَيْنَ الْجَنَّةِ وَالنَّارِ. فَيُقْتَصُّ لِبَعْضِهِمْ مِنْ بَعْضِ مَظَالِمٍ كَانَتْ بَيْنَهُمْ فِي الدُّنْيَا حَتَّى إِذَا هُدُّبُوا وَنُقُوا، أُذِنَ لَهُمْ فِي دُخُولِ الْجَنَّةِ»

(The believers will be removed from the Fire, and they will be detained on a bridge between Paradise and Hell. Then judgment will be passed between them concerning any wrong they have committed in this world against one another, until they are cleansed and purified. Then permission will be given to them to enter Paradise.)"

(لَا يَمَسُّهُمْ فِيهَا نَصَبٌ)

(No sense of fatigue shall touch them) meaning no harm or hardship, as was reported in the Sahih:

«أَنَّ اللَّهَ أَمَرَنِي أَنْ أَبَشِّرَ خَدِيجَةَ بَبَيْتٍ فِي الْجَنَّةِ مِنْ قَصَبٍ لَا صَخَبَ فِيهِ وَلَا نَصَبٌ»

(Allah commanded me to tell Khadijah the good news of a jeweled palace in Paradise in which there will be no toil and no fatigue.)

(وَمَا هُمْ مِنْهَا بِمُخْرَجِينَ)

(nor shall they (ever) be asked to leave it.) As was reported in the Hadith:

«يُقَالُ: يَا أَهْلَ الْجَنَّةِ إِنَّ لَكُمْ أَنْ تَصِحُّوا فَلَا تَمْرَضُوا أَبَدًا، وَإِنَّ لَكُمْ أَنْ تَعِيشُوا فَلَا تَمُوتُوا أَبَدًا، وَإِنَّ لَكُمْ أَنْ تَشِبُّوا فَلَا تَهْرَمُوا أَبَدًا، وَإِنَّ لَكُمْ أَنْ تُقِيمُوا فَلَا تَطْعَنُوا أَبَدًا»

(It will be said, O dwellers of Paradise! You will be healthy and never fall sick; you will live and never die; you will be young and never grow old; you will stay here and never leave.) Allah says:

(خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا لَا يَبْغُونَ عَنْهَا حِوَلًا)

(Wherein they shall dwell (forever). They will have no desire to be removed from it.) (18:108)

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

(Declare to My servants, that I am truly the Oft-Forgiving, the Most Merciful. And that My torment is indeed the most painful torment.) meaning, 'O Muhammad, tell My servants that I am the source of mercy and I am the source of punishment.' Similar Ayat to this have already been quoted above, which indicate that we must always be in a state between hope (for Allah's mercy) and fear (of His punishment).

(وَنَبِّئْهُمْ عَن ضَيْفِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ - إِذْ دَخَلُوا عَلَيْهِ فَقَالُوا سَلَامًا قَالَ إِنَّا مِنْكُمْ وَجِلُونَ - قَالُوا لَا تَوْجَلْ إِنَّا نُبَشِّرُكَ بِغُلْمٍ عَلَيْكَ - قَالَ أَبْشِرْ مُؤْمِنِي عَلَى أَنْ مَسَّنِيَ الْكِبَرُ فِيمَ نُبَشِّرُونَ - قَالُوا بَشِّرْنَاكَ بِالْحَقِّ فَلَا تَكُنْ مِنَ الْقَانِطِينَ - قَالَ وَمَنْ يَقْنَطُ مِنْ رَحْمَةِ رَبِّهِ إِلَّا الضَّالُّونَ)

(51. And tell them about the guests (i. e., the angels) of Ibrahim.) (52. When they entered upon him, and said: "Salaman (peace!)." He said: "Indeed we are frightened of you.") (53. They

said: "Do not be afraid! We bring you the good news of a boy possessing much knowledge and wisdom.") (54. He said: "Do you give me this good news while old age has overtaken me Of what then is your news about") (55. They said: "We give you good news in truth. So do not be of those who despair.") (56. He said: "And who despairs of the mercy of his Lord except those who are astray")

The Guests of Ibrahim and their Good News of a Son for Him

Allah is saying: ` Tell them, O Muhammad, about the story of

(ضَيْفِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ)

(the guests of Ibrahim.)'

(دَخَلُوا عَلَيْهِ فَقَالُوا سَلَامًا قَالَ إِنَّا مِنْكُمْ وَجِلُونَ)

(they entered upon him, and said: "Salaman (peace!)." He said: "Indeed we are frightened of you.") meaning that they were scared. The reason for their fear has been mentioned previously, which is that they noticed that these guests did not eat of the food that was offered, which was a fattened calf.

(قَالُوا لَا تَوْجَلْ)

(They said: "Do not be afraid!...") meaning, do not be scared.

(وَبَشِّرُوهُ بِعُلْمٍ عَلِيمٍ)

(We bring you the good news of a boy possessing much knowledge and wisdom.) this refers to Ishaq, as was previously mentioned in Surat Hud. Then

(قَالَ)

(He said) meaning he spoke with wonder and astonishment, asking for confirmation, because he was old and his wife was old:

(أَبَشِّرْهُمُونِي عَلَى أَنْ مَسَّنِيَ الْكِبَرُ فِيمَ تَبَشِّرُونَ)

(Do you give me this good news while old age has overtaken me Of what then is your news about) They responded by confirming the good news they had brought, good news after good news:

(قَالُوا بِشَرِّكَ بِالْحَقِّ فَلَا تَكُن مِّنَ الْقَنِيطِينَ)

(They said: "We give you good news in truth. So do not be of those who despair.")

(قَالَ فَمَا خَطْبُكُمْ أَيُّهَا الْمُرْسَلُونَ - قَالُوا إِنَّا
أُرْسِلْنَا إِلَى قَوْمٍ مُّجْرِمِينَ - إِلَّا عَال لُّوطٍ إِنَّا
لَمُنَجُّهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ - إِلَّا امْرَأَتَهُ قَدَّرْنَا إِنَّهَا لَمِنَ
الْغَابِرِينَ)

(57. He said: "What then is the business for which you have come, O messengers") (58. They said: "We have been sent to a guilty people.") (59. "(All) except the family of Lut, all of whom we are to save (from the destruction).") (60. "Except for his wife, of whom We have decreed that she shall be of those who remain behind.")

The Reason why the Angels came

Allah tells us that after Ibrahim had calmed down from the excitement of this good news, he started to ask them why they had come to him. They said,

(إِنَّا أُرْسِلْنَا إِلَى قَوْمٍ مُّجْرِمِينَ)

(We have been sent to a guilty people.) meaning the people of Lut. They told him that they were going to save the family of Lut from among those people, except for his wife, because she was one of those who were doomed. Thus it was said,

(إِلَّا امْرَأَتَهُ قَدَّرْنَا إِنَّهَا لَمِنَ الْغَابِرِينَ)

(Except for his wife, of whom We have decreed that she shall be of those who remain behind.) i.e., she was one of those who would be left behind and will be destroyed.

(فَلَمَّا جَاءَ عَال لُّوطٍ الْمُرْسَلُونَ - قَالَ إِنَّكُمْ قَوْمٌ
مُّنْكَرُونَ - قَالُوا بَلْ جِئْنَاكَ بِمَا كَانُوا فِيهِ يَمْتَرُونَ
- وَآتَيْنَاكَ بِالْحَقِّ وَإِنَّا لَصَادِقُونَ)

(61. Then when the messengers (the angels) came to the family of Lut) (62. He (Lut) said: "Verily, you are people unknown to me.") (63. They said: "Nay, we have come to you with that (torment) which they have been doubting.") (64. "And we have brought you the truth and certainly we tell the truth.")

The Angels coming to Lut

Allah tells us about when the angels came to Lut in the form of young men with handsome faces. When they entered his home, he said:

(قَالَ إِنَّكُمْ قَوْمٌ مُنْكَرُونَ - قَالُوا بَلْ جِئْنَاكَ بِمَا
كَانُوا فِيهِ يَمْتَرُونَ)

("Verily, you are people unknown to me." They said: "Nay, we have come to you with that (torment) which they have been doubting.") meaning that they were bringing the punishment and destruction that the people doubted they would ever suffer from.

(وَأَتَيْنَاكَ بِالْحَقِّ)

(And we have brought you the truth) is like the Ayah,

(مَا نُنزِّلُ الْمَلَائِكَةَ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ)

(We do not send the angels down except with the truth))15:8(and

(وَأِنَّا لَصَادِقُونَ)

(and certainly, we tell the truth.) They said this in affirmation of the news that they brought him, that he would be saved and his people would be destroyed.

(فَأَسْرَ بِأَهْلِكَ بِقِطْعٍ مِّنَ اللَّيْلِ وَاتَّبِعَ أَدْبَرَ هُمْ وَلَا
يَلْتَفِتُ مِنْكُمْ أَحَدٌ وَامْضُوا حَيْثُ تُؤْمَرُونَ -
وَقَضَيْنَا إِلَيْهِ ذَلِكَ الْأَمْرَ أَنَّ دَابِرَ هَؤُلَاءِ مَقْطُوعٌ
مُّصْبِحِينَ)

, (65. "Then travel for a portion of the night with your family, and you go behind them in the rear, and let no one amongst you look back, but go on to where you are ordered.") (66. And We made this decree known to him that those (sinners) would be rooted out in the early morning.)

Lut is ordered to leave with His Family during the Night

Allah tells us that His angels ordered Lut to set out after part of the night had passed. They told him to walk behind them, to protect them. Similarly, the Messenger of Allah would walk in the rear of the army on military campaigns, in order to help the weak and carry those who had no means of transport.

(وَلَا يَلْتَفِتْ مِنْكُمْ أَحَدٌ)

(and let no one amongst you look back,) meaning - when you hear the people screaming from their torment, do not turn around to look at them; leave them to face whatever punishment and vengeance is coming to them.

(وَأَمْضُوا حَيْثُ تُؤْمَرُونَ)

(but go on to where you are ordered.) - it is as if they had a guide with them to show them the way.

(وَقَضَيْنَا إِلَيْهِ ذَلِكَ الْأَمْرَ)

(And We made this decree known to him) meaning - We already told him about that.

(أَنَّ دَايِرَ هَؤُلَاءِ مَقْطُوعٌ مُصْبِحِينَ)

(that those (sinners) would be rooted out in the early morning.) meaning in the morning, as in another Ayah:

(إِنَّ مَوْعِدَهُمُ الصُّبْحُ أَلَيْسَ الصُّبْحُ بِقَرِيبٍ)

(Indeed, morning is their appointed time. Is not the morning near) 11:81

(وَجَاءَ أَهْلُ الْمَدِينَةِ يَسْتَبْشِرُونَ - قَالَ إِنَّ هَؤُلَاءِ ضَيْفِي فَلَا تَفْضَحُون - وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَلَا تُخْزُون - قَالُوا أَوْلَمْ نُنْهَكَ عَنِ الْعَالَمِينَ - قَالَ هَؤُلَاءِ بَنَاتِي

إِنْ كُنْتُمْ فَعَلِينَ - لَعَمْرُكَ إِنَّهُمْ لَفِي سَكْرَتِهِمْ
يَعْمَهُونَ)

(67. And the inhabitants of the city came rejoicing.) (68.)Lut(said: "Verily, these are my guests, so do not shame me.") (69. "And have Taqwa of Allah, and do not disgrace me.") (70. They said: "Did we not forbid you from entertaining any of the `Alamin") (71.)Lut(said: "These are my daughters, if you must act (so).") (72. Verily, by your life, in their wild intoxication, they were wandering blindly.)

The People of the City arrive upon the Angels, thinking that they are Men

Allah tells us about how Lut's people came to him when they found out about his handsome guests, and they came happily rejoicing about them.

قَالَ إِنْ هَؤُلَاءِ ضَيْفِي فَلَا تَفْضَحُون - وَاتَّقُوا
اللَّهَ وَلَا تُخْزَوْنَ)

(Lut(said: "Verily, these are my guests, so do not shame me. And have Taqwa of Allah, and do not disgrace me.") This is what Lut said to them before he knew that his guests were messengers from Allah, as mentioned in Surat Hud, but here (in this Surah), we have already been told that they are messengers from Allah, and this is followed by an account of Lut's people coming and his exchange with them. However, here the conjunction (wa, meaning "and") does not imply the sequence of events, especially since there is something to indicate that this is not the case. They said answering him,

(أَوَلَمْ نَنْهَكَ عَنِ الْعَالَمِينَ)

(Did we not forbid you from entertaining (or protecting) any of the `Alamin) meaning, `did we not tell you that you should not have anyone as a guest' He reminded them about their womenfolk and what their Lord had created for them in the women of permissible sexual relationships. This issue has already been explained and is no need to repeat the discussion here. All of this happened while they were still unaware of the inevitable calamity and punishment that was about to befall them the following morning. Hence Allah, may He be exalted, said to Muhammad ,

(لَعَمْرُكَ إِنَّهُمْ لَفِي سَكْرَتِهِمْ يَعْمَهُونَ)

(Verily, by your life, in their wild intoxication, they were wandering blindly.) Allah swore by the life of His Prophet , which is an immense honor reflecting his high rank and noble status. `Amr bin Malik An-Nakari reported from Abu Al-Jawza' that Ibn `Abbas said: "Allah has never

created or made or formed any soul that is dearer to him than Muhammad . I never heard that Allah swore by the life of anyone else. Allah says,

(لَعَمْرُكَ إِنَّهُمْ لَفِي سَكْرَتِهِمْ يَعْمَهُونَ)

(Verily, by your life, in their wild intoxication, they were wandering blindly.) meaning, by your life and the length of your stay in this world,

(إِنَّهُمْ لَفِي سَكْرَتِهِمْ يَعْمَهُونَ)

(in their wild intoxication, they were wandering blindly.) This was reported by Ibn Jarir. Qatadah said:

(لَفِي سَكْرَتِهِمْ)

(in their wild intoxication) "It means - in their misguided state;

(يَعْمَهُونَ)

(they were wandering blindly) means - they were playing. " `Ali bin Abi Talhah reported that Ibn ` Abbas said:

(لَعَمْرُكَ)

(Verily, by your life) means by your life, and

(إِنَّهُمْ لَفِي سَكْرَتِهِمْ يَعْمَهُونَ)

(in their wild intoxication, they were wandering blindly.) means that they were confused."

(فَأَخَذْتَهُمُ الصَّيْحَةَ مُشْرِقِينَ - فَجَعَلْنَا عَلَيْهَا
سَافِلَهَا وَأَمْطَرْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ حِجَارَةً مِّن سِجِّيلٍ - إِنَّ
فِي ذَلِكَ لآيَاتٍ لِّلْمُتَوَسِّمِينَ - وَإِنَّهَا لِبَسَائِلِ مُّقِيمٍ -
إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لآيَةً لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ)

(73. So the Sayhah overtook them at the time of sunrise.) (74. And We turned them upside down and rained stones of baked clay upon them.) (75. Surely, in this are signs for those who

see.) (76. And verily, they were right on the highroad.) (77. Surely, there is indeed a sign in that for the believers.)

The Destruction of the People of Lut

Allah said;

(فَأَخَذْتَهُمُ الصَّيْحَةَ)

(So the Sayhah overtook them) This is the piercing sound that came to them when the sun rose, which was accompanied by the city being flipped upside down, and stones of baked clay (As-Sjjil) raining down upon them. The discussion of As-Sjjil in Surah Hud is a sufficient explanation. Allah said:

(إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّلْمُتَوَسِّمِينَ)

(Surely, in this are signs for those who see.) meaning that the traces of the destruction of that city are easily visible to any one who ponder about it, whether they look at it with physical eyesight or mental and spiritual insight, as Mujahid said concerning the phrase,

(لِّلْمُتَوَسِّمِينَ)

(those who see) he said, "those who have insight and discernment." It was reported from Ibn `Abbas and Ad-Dahhak that it referred to those who look. Qatadah said: "those who learn lessons".

(لِّلْمُتَوَسِّمِينَ)

(those who see) therefore the meaning is "those who ponder".

The City of Sodom on the Highroad

(وَإِنَّهَا لِبِسْبِيلٍ مُّقِيمٍ)

(And verily, they were right on the highroad.) meaning that the city of Sodom, which was physically and spiritually turned upside down, and pelted with stones until it became a foul smelling lake (the Dead Sea), is on a route that is easily accessible until the present day. This is like the Ayah,

وَإِنَّكُمْ لَتَمُرُّونَ عَلَيْهِمْ مُصْبِحِينَ - وَيَالَيْلٍ أَفَلَا
تَعْقِلُونَ)

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

(إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَةً لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ)

(Surely, there is indeed a sign in that for the believers.) meaning, `All that We did to the people of Lut, from the destruction and the vengeance, to how We saved Lut and his family, these are clear signs to those who believe in Allah and His Messengers.'

وَإِنْ كَانَ أَصْحَابُ الْأَيْكَةِ ظَالِمِينَ - فَانْتَقَمْنَا
مِنْهُمْ وَإِنَّهُمَا لَبِإِمَامٍ مُّبِينٍ)

(78. And the Dwellers of Al-Aykah, were also wrongdoers.) (79. So, We took vengeance on them. They are both on an open route, plain to see.)

The Destruction of the Dwellers of Al-Aykah, the People of Shu`ayb

The Dwellers of Al-Aykah, were the people of Shu`ayb. Ad-Dahhak, Qatadah and others said that Al-Aykah refers to intertwined trees. Their evildoing included associating partners with Allah (Shirk), banditry and cheating in weights and measures. Allah punished them with the Sayhah (the awful cry or torment), the earthquake, and the torment of the Day of Shadow. They lived near the people of Lut, but at a later time, and the people of Lut were known to them, which is why Allah says,

(وَإِنَّهُمَا لَبِإِمَامٍ مُّبِينٍ)

(They are both on an open route, plain to see.) Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid, Ad-Dahhak and others said, "a visible route." This is why, when Shu`ayb warned his people, he said to them,

(وَمَا قَوْمٌ لَوْ طِ مِّنْكُمْ يَبْعِدِ)

(And the people of Lut are not far off from you!))11:89(

(وَلَقَدْ كَذَّبَ أَصْحَابُ الْحَجَرِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ -
وَءَاتَيْنَهُمْ آيَاتِنَا فَكَانُوا عَنْهَا مُعْرِضِينَ - وَكَانُوا

يُنْحِتُونَ مِنَ الْجِبَالِ بُيُوتًا ءَامِنِينَ - فَأَخَذْتَهُمُ
الصَّيْحَةَ مُصْحِحِينَ - فَمَا أَغْنَىٰ عَنْهُمْ مَا كَانُوا
يَكْسِبُونَ)

(80. And verily, the Dwellers of Al-Hijr denied the Messengers.) (81. And We gave them Our signs, but they were averse to them.) (82. And they used to hew out dwellings from the mountains, (feeling) secure.) (83. But the Sayhah (torment - awful cry) overtook them in the early morning.) (84. And all that they used to earn availed them not.)

The Destruction of the Dwellers of Al-Hijr, Who are the People called Thamud

The Dwellers of the Al Hijr were the people of Thamud who rejected their Prophet, Salih. Whoever denies even one Messenger, then he has disbelieved in all of the Messengers, thus they are described as rejecting "the Messengers". Allah tells us that he (Salih) brought them signs to prove that what he was telling them was true, such as the she-camel which Allah created for them out of a solid rock in response to the supplication of Salih. This she-camel was grazing on their lands, and the people and the camel took water on alternate days that were well-known. When they rebelled and killed it, he said to them,

تَمَتَّعُوا فِي دَارِكُمْ ثَلَاثَةَ أَيَّامٍ ذَلِكَ وَعَدُّ غَيْرُ
مَكْدُوبٍ)

("Enjoy yourselves in your homes for three days. This is a promise which will not be belied.")
)11:65(Allah said:

وَأَمَّا ثَمُودُ فَهَدَيْنَاهُمْ فَاسْتَحَبُّوا الْعَمَىٰ عَلَى
الهُدَىٰ)

(And as for Thamud, We showed them and made the path of truth clear but they preferred blindness to guidance.))41:17(Allah tells us that,

(وَكَانُوا يُنْحِتُونَ مِنَ الْجِبَالِ بُيُوتًا ءَامِنِينَ)

(And they used to hew out dwellings from the mountains, (feeling) secure.) meaning, they were without fear and they had no real need for those houses; it was merely a form of extravagance and work without a purpose. This could be seen from their work in the houses in

the Al-Hijr through which the Messenger of Allah passed on his way to Tabuk. He covered his head and urged his camel to go faster, saying to his Companions:

«لَا تَدْخُلُوا بُيُوتَ الْقَوْمِ الْمُعَذِّبِينَ إِلَّا أَنْ تَكُونُوا
بَاكِينَ، فَإِنْ لَمْ تَبْكُوا فَتَبَاكُوا خَشْيَةً أَنْ يُصِيبَكُمْ
مَا أَصَابَهُمْ»

(Do not enter the dwellings of those who were punished unless you are weeping, and if you do not weep then make yourself weep out of fear that perhaps what struck them may also strike you.)

(فَأَخَذَتْهُمُ الصَّيْحَةُ مُصْبِحِينَ)

(But the Sayhah (torment - awful cry) overtook them in the early morning.) meaning in the morning of the fourth day.

(فَمَا أَغْنَى عَنْهُمْ مَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ)

(And all that they used to earn availed them not.) meaning all of the benefits that they used to gain from their crops and fruits, and the water which they did not want to share with the she-camel that they killed so that it would not reduce their share of the water - all of that wealth would not protect them or help them when the command of their Lord came to pass.

(وَمَا خَلَقْنَا السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا إِلَّا
بِالْحَقِّ وَإِنَّ السَّاعَةَ لَأْتِيَةٌ فَاصْفَحِ الصَّفْحَ الْجَمِيلَ
(

(إِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ الْخَلْقُ الْعَلِيمُ)

(85. And We did not create the heavens and the earth and all that is between them except with the truth, and the Hour is surely coming, so overlook their faults with gracious forgiveness.)

(86. Verily, your Lord is the Knowing Creator.)

**The World has been created for some Purpose, then the Hour will
come**

Allah says,

(وَمَا خَلَقْنَا السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا إِلَّا
بِالْحَقِّ وَإِنَّ السَّاعَةَ لَأْتِيَةٌ)

(And We did not create the heavens and the earth and all that is between them except with the truth, and the Hour is surely coming), i.e., with justice to -

(لِيَجْزِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسَاءُوا بِمَا عَمِلُوا)

(requite those who do evil with that which they have done))53:31(Allah says,

(وَمَا خَلَقْنَا السَّمَاءَ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا بَطْلًا
ذَلِكَ ظَنُّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فَوَيْلٌ لِلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنَ
النَّارِ)

(And We did not create the heaven and the earth, and all that is between them without purpose! That is what those who disbelieve think! Then let those who disbelieve be warned of the Fire!)(38:27)

(أَفَحَسِبْتُمْ أَنَّمَا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ عَبَثًا وَأَنَّكُمْ إِلَيْنَا لَا
تُرْجَعُونَ - فَتَعَلَى اللَّهُ الْمَلِكُ الْحَقُّ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا
هُوَ رَبُّ الْعَرْشِ الْكَرِيمِ)

("Did you think that We created you in play, and that you would not be brought back to Us" So exalted be Allah, the Truth, the King, none has the right to be worshipped but He, the Lord of the Honored Throne!)(23:115-116). Then Allah informed His Prophet about the Hour, and that it will be the faults of the idolators when they insult him and reject the Message that he brings to them. This is like the Ayah,

(فَاصْفَحْ عَنْهُمْ وَقُلْ سَلَامٌ فَسَوْفَ يَعْلَمُونَ)

(So turn away from them, and say: "Salam (Peace!)." But they will come to know) (43:89). Mujahid, Qatadah and others said: "This was before fighting was prescribed". It is as they said, because this Surah was revealed in Makkah and fighting was prescribed after the Hijrah.

(إِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ الْخَلْقُ الْعَلِيمُ)

(Verily, your Lord is the Knowing Creator)(15:86). This is a confirmation of the Day of Resurrection and that Allah, may He be exalted, is able to bring the Hour to pass. He is the Creator and nothing is beyond Him. He is the Knowing, Who knows what has been dispersed from people's bodies and scattered throughout the regions of the earth, as He says:

(أَوَلَيْسَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بِقَدِيرٍ
عَلَىٰ أَنْ يَخْلُقَ مِثْلَهُمْ بَلَىٰ وَهُوَ الْخَلَّاقُ الْعَلِيمُ -
إِنَّمَا أَمْرُهُ إِذَا أَرَادَ شَيْئًا أَنْ يَقُولَ لَهُ كُنْ فَيَكُونُ -
فَسُبْحَانَ الَّذِي بِيَدِهِ مَلَكُوتُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَإِلَيْهِ
نُرْجَعُونَ)

(Is not He, Who created the heavens and the earth able to create the like of them Yes, indeed! He is the Knowing, Creator. Verily, His command, when He intends a thing, is only that He says to it, "Be!" - and it is! So glorified and exalted is He above all that they associate with Him, and in whose Hands is the dominion of all things, and to Him you shall return.)(36:81-83).

(وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَاكَ سَبْعًا مِّنَ الْمَثَانِي وَالْقُرْآنَ الْعَظِيمَ
- لَا تَمُدَّنَّ عَيْنَيْكَ إِلَىٰ مَا مَتَّعْنَا بِهِ أَزْوَاجًا مِّنْهُمْ
وَلَا تَحْزَنْ عَلَيْهِمْ وَاخْفِضْ جَنَاحَكَ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ)

(87. And indeed, We have bestowed upon you seven of the Mathani, and the Grand Qur'an.)
(88. Look not with your eyes ambitiously at what We have given to certain classes of them, nor grieve over them. And lower your wings to the believers.)

A Reminder of the Blessing of the Qur'an and the Command to focus on its Message

Allah is saying to His Prophet : Since We have given you the Grand Qur'an, then do not look at this world and its attractions, or the transient delights that we have given to its people in order to test them. Do not envy what they have in this world, and do not upset yourself with regret for their rejection of you and their opposition to your religion.

(وَإِخْفِضْ جَنَاحَكَ لِمَنِ اتَّبَعَكَ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ)

(And lower your wings to the believers who follow you) (26:215) meaning - be gentle with them, like the Ayah,

(لَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مِّنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ عَزِيزٌ عَلَيْهِ مَا
عَنِتُّمْ حَرِيصٌ عَلَيْكُمْ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ)

(Verily, there has come unto you a Messenger from among yourselves. It grieves him that you should receive any injury or difficulty. He is anxious for you, for the believers - he is full of pity, kind and merciful)(9:128). There were some differences among the scholars over the meaning of "seven of the Mathani". Ibn Mas'ud, Ibn `Umar, Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid, Sa`id bin Jubayr, Ad-Dahhak and others said that they are the seven long (Surahs), meaning Al-Baqarah, Al-`Imran, An-Nisa', Al-Ma'idah, Al-An`am, Al-A`raf and Yunus. There are texts to this effect reported from Ibn `Abbas and Sa`id bin Jubayr. Sa`id said: "In them, Allah explains the obligations, the Hudud (legal limits), stories and rulings." Ibn `Abbas said, "He explains the parables, stories and lessons." The second opinion is that they (the seven of the Mathani) are Al-Fatihah, which is composed of seven Ayat. This was reported from `Ali, `Umar, Ibn Mas'ud and Ibn `Abbas. Ibn `Abbas said: "The Bismillah, is completing seven Ayah, which Allah has given exclusively to you (Muslims)." This is also the opinion of Ibrahim An-Nakha'i, `Abdullah bin `Umayr, Ibn Abi Mulaykah, Shahr bin Hawshab, Al-Hasan Al-Basri and Mujahid. Al-Bukhari, may Allah have mercy on him, recorded two Hadiths on this topic. (The first) was recorded from Abu Sa`id bin Al-Mu`alla, who said: "The Prophet passed by me while I was praying. He called out for me but I did not come until I finished my prayer. Then I came to him, and He asked,

«مَا مَنَعَكَ أَنْ تَأْتِيَنِي؟»

(What stopped you from coming to me) I said, 'I was praying'. He said,

«أَلَمْ يَقُلِ اللَّهُ (yas hallA ton diD`)

(يَأْيُهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اسْتَجِيبُوا لِلَّهِ وَلِلرَّسُولِ إِذَا
دَعَاكُمْ)

(O you who believe! Answer Allah (by obeying Him) and (His) Messenger when he calls you...)
)8:24(

أَلَا أَعْلَمُكَ أَعْظَمَ سُورَةٍ فِي الْقُرْآنِ قَبْلَ أَنْ أُخْرَجَ
مِنَ الْمَسْجِدِ»

(Shall I not teach you the most magnificent Surah before I leave the Masjid) Then the Prophet went to leave the Masjid, and I reminded him, so he said,

(الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ)

("Al-Hamdu Lillahi Rabbil-'Alamin)All praises and thanks be to Allah, the Lord of all that exists)(1:2).

هِيَ السَّبْعُ الْمَثَانِي وَالْقُرْآنُ الَّذِي أُوتِيَهُ»

(This is the seven of the Mathani and the Qur'an which I have been given.)" (The second Hadith) was reported from Abu Hurayrah who said that the Messenger of Allah said:

«أُمُّ الْقُرْآنِ هِيَ السَّبْعُ الْمَثَانِي وَالْقُرْآنُ الْعَظِيمُ»

(Umm Al-Qur'an (the Mother or the Essence of the Qur'an,) is the seven Mathani, and the Grand Qur'an.) This means that Al-Fatihah is the seven Mathani and the Grand Qur'an, but this does not contradict the statement that the seven Mathani are the seven long Surahs, because they also share these attributes, as does the whole Qur'an. As Allah says,

(اللَّهُ نَزَّلَ أَحْسَنَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابًا مُتَشَابِهًا مَثَانِي)

(Allah has sent down the best statement, a Book (this Qur'an), its parts resembling each other in goodness and truth, oft-recited) (39:23). So it is oft-recited in one way, and its parts resemble one another in another way, and this is also the Grand Qur'an.

(لَا تَمُدَّنَّ عَيْنَيْكَ إِلَىٰ مَا مَتَّعْنَا بِهِ أَزْوَاجًا مِّنْهُمْ)

(Look not with your eyes ambitiously at what We have given to certain classes of them))20: 131(meaning, be content with the Grand Qur'an that Allah has given to you, and do not long for the luxuries and transient delights that they have.

(لَا تَمُدَّنَّ عَيْنَيْكَ)

(Look not with your eyes ambitiously) Al-`Awfi reported that Ibn `Abbas said: "He)in this Ayah(forbade a man to wish for what his companion has."

(إِلَىٰ مَا مَتَّعْنَا بِهِ أَزْوَاجًا مِّنْهُمْ)

(at what We have given to certain classes of them,) Mujahid said: "This refers to the rich."

(وَقُلْ إِنِّي أَنَا النَّذِيرُ الْمُبِينُ - كَمَا أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَى الْمُقْتَسِمِينَ - الَّذِينَ جَعَلُوا الْقُرْآنَ عِضِينَ - فَوَرَبِّكَ لَنَسَلْنَهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ - عَمَّا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ)

(89. And say (O Muhammad): "I am indeed a plain warner.") (90. As We have sent down on the Muqtasimin (conspiring confederates),) (91. Who have made the Qur'an into parts.) (92. So, by your Lord, We shall certainly call all of them to account.) (93. For all that they used to do.)

The Messenger is a Plain Warner

Allah commanded His Prophet to tell the people:

(إِنِّي أَنَا النَّذِيرُ الْمُبِينُ)

(I am indeed a plain warner) coming to warn the people of a severe punishment that they will suffer if they reject him, as happened to those nations before them who disbelieved in their Messengers, upon whom Allah sent His punishment and vengeance. In the two Sahihis it is reported from Abu Musa that the Prophet said:

«إِنَّمَا مَثَلِي وَمَثَلُ مَا بَعَثَنِي اللَّهُ بِهِ كَمَثَلِ رَجُلٍ
أَتَى قَوْمَهُ فَقَالَ: يَا قَوْمِ إِنِّي رَأَيْتُ الْجَيْشَ بِعَيْنِي،
وَإِنِّي أَنَا النَّذِيرُ الْعُرْيَانُ فَالْجَاءَ النَّجَاءَ، فَأَطَاعَهُ
طَائِفَةٌ مِنْ قَوْمِهِ فَأَذْلَجُوا وَأَنْطَلَقُوا عَلَى مُهْلِهِمْ
فَنَجَوْا، وَكَذَّبَهُ طَائِفَةٌ مِنْهُمْ فَأَصْبَحُوا مَكَانَهُمْ،
فَصَبَّحَهُمُ الْجَيْشُ فَأَهْلَكَهُمْ وَاجْتَاكَهُمْ، فَذَلِكَ مَثَلُ
مَنْ أَطَاعَنِي وَاتَّبَعَ مَا جِئْتُ بِهِ وَمَثَلُ مَنْ
عَصَانِي وَكَذَّبَ مَا جِئْتُ بِهِ مِنَ الْحَقِّ»

(The parable of myself and that with which Allah has sent me is that of a man who came to his people and said, `O people! I have seen the)invading(army with my own eyes, and I am a

naked warner, so escape, escape!' Some of his people obeyed him and set out at nightfall, setting off at a slow pace and managing to escape. Others did not believe him and stayed where they were until the next morning when the invading army overtook them and destroyed them, wiping them out. This is the parable of the one who obeys me and follows what I have brought, and the example of the one who disobeys me and rejects the truth that I have brought.)

Explanation of "Al-Muqtasimin

(المُقْتَسِمِينَ)

(the Muqtasimin) refers to those who had made a pact to oppose, deny, and insult the Prophets. Similarly, Allah tells us about the people of Salih:

(قَالُوا تَقَاسَمُوا بِاللَّهِ لَنُبَيِّتَنَّهُ وَأَهْلَهُ)

(They said, "Swear to one another)Taqaṣamu(by Allah that we shall make a secret night attack on him and his household"))27:49(i.e., they plotted to kill him at night. Mujahid said "Taqaṣamu means they swore an oath."

(وَأَقْسَمُوا بِاللَّهِ جَهْدَ أَيْمَانِهِمْ لَا يَبْعَثُ اللَّهُ مَن يَمُوتُ)

(And they swear by Allah with their strongest oaths, that Allah will not raise up one who dies)(16:38).

(أَوَلَمْ تَكُونُوا أَقْسَمْتُمْ مِّن قَبْلُ)

((It will be said): "Did you not before swear that you would not leave (the world for the Hereafter)) (14:44)

(أَهَؤُلَاءِ الَّذِينَ أَقْسَمْتُمْ لَا يَنَالُهُمُ اللَّهُ بِرَحْمَةٍ)

(Are they those, of whom you swore that Allah would never show them mercy))7:49(It is as if they took an oath for every single thing that they denied in this world, so they are called the Muqtasimin.

(الَّذِينَ جَعَلُوا الْفُرْعَانَ عِضِينَ)