

التفسير المحرر 27

Abraham said to the angels, "So what is the serious mission for which Allah has sent you?"

They said to him, "Allah has sent us to a disbelieving and corrupt people, and they are the people of Lot (peace be upon him).

To rain down upon them from the sky stones of baked clay and pelt them with them.

Stones, marked by Allah Almighty and prepared for those people who have transgressed the limits of Allah.

When We intended to destroy the people of Lot, We brought out those who were in their town among those who believed in Allah Almighty.

But we did not find any in that town except one household of Muslims.

And We have left in that town a sign indicating the terrible fate of its people for those who fear Allah's painful punishment, so they may infer from it the power of Allah Almighty and His vengeance upon the criminals, and take heed and learn a lesson.

And in the story of Moses, there is a sign and a lesson when We sent him to Pharaoh with a clear and manifest, compelling proof of his truthfulness.

But Pharaoh turned away from the truth and from following it, relying on his army upon whom he depended and turned to in times of hardship. Pharaoh said: "Either Moses is a magician who

bewitches people, or he is a madman who must be insane!"

So We seized Pharaoh and his soldiers, and We cast them into the sea, so they drowned, while Pharaoh had committed what he is blamed for: disbelief and oppression, thus deserving the punishment of Allah Almighty.

And in the story of 'Āad there is a sign and a lesson: when We sent against them the severe wind in which there is no good or blessing, it neither pollinates trees, nor drives rain.

That barren wind leaves nothing it passes over without turning it into something decayed, dry, and crumbled!

And in the story of Thamūd is a sign and a lesson when their prophet Sālih said to them, "Enjoy yourselves in this world until the end of your lifespans!"

So the disbelievers of Thamūd abandoned the Command of Allah and turned away from obeying it out of their insolence, so the thunderbolt of punishment seized them while they were looking on at the punishment of Allah descending upon them!

So they were unable to escape the punishment of Allah, nor could they avert it from themselves! The disbelievers of Thamūd were not capable of defending themselves by any means whatsoever!

And We destroyed the people of Noah before those nations, for they were the first to deny the truth. Indeed, they were a disbelieving and disobedient people, departing from the obedience of Allah Almighty.

We built the heaven with might and great power, and We are indeed expanding the reaches of the heaven, extending abundant provision to Our creation, and We are Able to create whatever We will to create.

And We spread out the earth and made it like a bed, so that the creation may easily benefit from it. How superbly did We smooth it out, as We made the earth a resting place for its inhabitants by leveling it and making it habitable!

And We created pairs of all things, so perhaps you would be mindful thereby of the Oneness of Allah Almighty, the perfection of His power, His wisdom, and so forth.

Say, O Muhammad, to your people, "Therefore, flee to Allah Almighty by believing in Him, acting in obedience to Him, repenting to Him, and relying on Him. Indeed, I am a clear warner to you from Allah, warning you of His punishment for disbelieving in Him and disobeying Him.

And do not set up another god with Allah, but devote your worship sincerely to Him. Indeed, I am sent to you from Allah as a clear warner, so I warn

you and caution you against worshipping anything besides Him."

Just as the Quraysh denied their prophet and described him with false attributes, the disbelievers of past nations before the Quraysh denied their messengers. So every nation among them said to their messenger, "He is a magician or a madman!"

Have the disbelievers passed this saying down to one another so their word is united upon rejecting their messengers and describing them with magic or madness?! The disbelievers did not pass this down to one another; rather, their words agreed in this matter because they share the trait of transgression, for they all transgress the command of Allah, exceeding His limits.

So turn away—O Muhammad—from these deniers who stubbornly oppose the truth despite its clarity and the establishment of the proof against them, for you will not be blamed by Allah; you have indeed conveyed to them the message of their Lord, advised them sincerely, and there has been no negligence on your part in calling them.

And remind—O Muhammad—for indeed, the reminder truly benefits the people of faith.

I have not created the jinn and mankind except to worship Me alone, so that they may humble themselves and submit to Me in obedience.

I seek no provision from the jinn and mankind, neither for Myself, nor for themselves, nor for others. Nor do I want them to feed Me, for I am exalted far above eating, nor that they should feed themselves or others. Therefore, let them occupy themselves with My worship.

Indeed, Allah alone is the Supreme Provider for all His creation; they need Him in all their affairs.

Indeed, for those who have done wrong and associated partners with Allah, from the Quraysh or others, there is an ample share of the punishment of Allah Almighty, like the share of their counterparts among the disbelievers of past nations. So let them not ask Me to hasten the punishment, for it will inevitably descend upon them at its appointed time.

So may the punishment and destruction descend upon those who disbelieved in the truth, from the Day on which Allah promised them the descent of punishment!

I swear by Mount Tūr in Sinai, upon which Allah spoke to Moses (peace be upon him).

And I swear by an inscribed and written Book.

And by the inscribed Book, on spread-out, unfolded paper, which is the Qur'an.

And I swear by the House frequented by angels in heaven.

And I swear by the heaven whose structure Allah raised, and made it a roof for the earth from all its sides.

And I swear by the sea filled with water, prevented from overflowing onto the face of the earth and drowning its inhabitants.

I swear by those things that the punishment of your Lord, O Muhammad, will surely come to pass and inevitably befall those who deserve it.

There is no one to avert that punishment from its people and save them from it!

On the Day when the heaven will move and shake violently, moving back and forth, and that will happen on the Day of Resurrection!

And the mountains will be blown away from their places and become dust!

There is such severe punishment and destruction on that Day for the deniers of the truth!

Those who are immersed in falsehood in this worldly life, floundering in it with their words and deeds, heedless of the Hereafter.

The Day they will be fiercely and violently shoved into the Fire of Hell!

They will be told, "This is the Fire which you used to deny in the worldly life."

Is this what you see now—magic with no reality, or do you not see it with your eyes?!

Enter the Fire and taste its heat, for it is the same for you whether you are patient or impatient; you

will not benefit in any case from patience or impatience! You are only being punished in the Fire because of what you used to do in the world of disbelief and denial; thus, the matter is executed upon you with justice, and Allah has not wronged you in the least!

Indeed, those who fear the wrath of Allah and His punishment, by complying with what He commanded and avoiding what He prohibited, will be in gardens and great bliss in the Hereafter.

Delighted with what their Lord has given them of bliss in Paradise, enjoying it, happy and joyful with that, and Allah has saved them from the punishment of the Fire.

It will be said to the righteous, "Eat from the food of Paradise and drink from its drink, enjoying it without any harm or distress and without misery or sorrow, because of the righteous deeds you used to do in the worldly life."

They will be reclining on thrones lined up in rows. And We will pair the righteous with fair maidens, the blackness and whiteness of whose eyes will be intense, with wide and lovely eyes and perfect beauty.

As for those who believed, We will join with them their offspring who followed them in faith, placing them with them in their rank in Paradise, even if they did not perform deeds like those of their fathers. We will not decrease the reward of the

fathers' righteous deeds in anything when We join their offspring with them in Paradise! Every soul will receive its reward according to what it did in this world, and every person will be punished for his sins, and will not be held accountable for the sin of another, even if they are among his relatives.

And We will increase the believers in Paradise from Our bounty, and We have given them fruit and meat from whatever they desire and delight in.

They will pass around a filled cup of wine to one another, which leads to no delirium or idle talk. Its drinker will incur no sin by drinking it, nor will anyone accuse him of sin, nor will drinking it lead him to the commission of sin, unlike the wine of this world.

The believers will be served in Paradise by their servant boys, who will be in their beauty, fairness, purity, radiance, and cleanliness, like well-preserved pearls in their shells.

And some of the people of Paradise will turn to one another, conversing among themselves and asking each other about the conditions they were in during worldly life.

They will say to one another, "Indeed, we were in the world among our people fearful and cautious of the punishment of Allah on the Day of Resurrection!"

So Allah bestowed His favor upon us by His grace and guided us, and saved us from the torment of the Fire.

Indeed, we used to call upon Allah Almighty alone in the worldly life with the supplication of worship and the supplication of request, and we would beseech Him, so He answered our supplication and protected us from the punishment of the scorching Fire, and admitted us into the Home of Bliss. Indeed, Allah Almighty is the Most Kind to His servants, the Most Beneficent towards them, the Profoundly Merciful to them.

So remind the people, O Muhammad, with the Qur'an, for you are not—by the grace of Allah upon you—a soothsayer claiming knowledge of the unseen, nor are you a madman devoid of reason as they claim, but rather what you say is a revelation from Allah Almighty.

Or do the polytheists of the Quraysh say, "Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is a poet for whom we await the calamities and misfortunes of time, so he will die and perish just as the poets before him perished, and we will be relieved of him and his affair!?"

Say, O Muhammad, to those polytheists, "Wait for the destruction to befall me, for I too am among those who are waiting for the punishment of Allah to befall you, and we will know who will have the good end!"

Do their minds command them to this denial of the Messenger and attributing falsehood to him?! Or are they people who have transgressed the limits of Allah, such that this transgression has driven them to deny the Messenger and accuse him of falsehood?!

Or do they say, "Muhammad has fabricated the Qur'an of his own accord and falsely attributed it to Allah?!" The matter is not as they claim; rather, they do not believe in the truth that has come to them from Allah Almighty. Had they believed, they would not have said what they said.

Then let the polytheists produce the like of this Qur'an if they are truthful in their claim that Muhammad has fabricated it and made it up himself. If they are unable to do so, then they are liars.

Or were those polytheists created without a creator to create them?! Or were they the creators of themselves or of other created beings?!

Or did they create the heavens and earth?! The polytheists did not create them. Rather, it is their lack of firm belief in the truth that led them to abandon it and fall into falsehood.

Or do those polytheists possess the treasures of Allah—O Muhammad—of mercy, provisions, and other things?! Or are they the ones in control in this world, managing affairs, subjugating people, and

having the authority to give and withhold from them?!

Or do they have a stairway by which they ascend to heaven to listen to the revelation or the unseen?! Then let those of them who listen bring manifest proof showing that they are upon the truth in what they claim.

Or does Allah, the Exalted, have daughters, as you claimed and alleged that the angels are the daughters of Allah, while you have the sons whom you prefer over daughters, thus attributing to Allah Almighty what you consider inferior?!

Or do you ask them, O Muhammad, for payment in return for your calling them to the truth or their submission to it, so they are in hardship from the financial burden you imposed on them and do not respond to you?!

Or do the polytheists have knowledge of the unseen so they write it down?!

Or do they intend to devise a plot by which they nullify the truth?! But those who disbelieve are the ones who are actually plotted against, and the evil consequence of their plot will rebound against themselves.

Or do they have another god other than Allah worthy of worship, so they worship it?! Allah is far exalted above having any partner in worship.

If the polytheists were to see a piece of the sky falling down upon them, they would say, "This is

just a pile of clouds," and they would not believe that it is a punishment from Allah Almighty!

So leave—O Muhammad—these obstinate polytheists until they face the Day in which they will die and perish.

The Day when their plotting, with which they plotted against the truth, will not benefit them at all! And no one will help them, to save them and rescue them from the torment!

And for those who have wronged themselves by disbelieving in Allah Almighty, there is a punishment before that Day, but most of the disbelievers do not know the inevitable punishment that will befall them!

Be patient, O Muhammad, with the predestined decree of your Lord—from what He has decreed for you of injustice that afflicts you and harm that reaches you—and with His legislative decree; by adhering to it, being steadfast upon it, and conveying the message of Allah, for indeed, you are under Our Watchful Eyes, We protect you and guard you from every evil and plot. And exalt your Lord, O Muhammad, above any imperfections, an exaltation coupled with describing Him with the attributes of perfection, out of love and reverence for Him, when you arise.

And glorify your Lord, O Muhammad, during some parts of the night, and glorify Him also at the setting of the stars.

I swear by the star when it falls.

Your companion Muhammad—O Quraysh—has not strayed from the truth, nor has he deviated from his belief and faith in it, nor has he become misguided following his desires; rather, he is rightly guided in his knowledge, and righteous in his deeds.

Nor does the speech of Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) emanate from his own desire.

Whatever Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) uttered concerning the religion is nothing but a revelation revealed to him by Allah, which he himself follows and conveys to others without any addition or omission.

Gabriel (peace be upon him), of mighty power, taught Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) this Qur'an.

And Gabriel possesses a strong, sound body, free from imperfection, well-formed, and beautiful outwardly and inwardly, so he rose and ascended into heaven in his true form.

When Gabriel was in the highest part of the heaven.

Then Gabriel approached Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and came down to him, drawing even closer to him when he descended to him from heaven to the earth, to reveal to him what Allah willed.

The distance of Gabriel's proximity to Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was the measure of two bow lengths, or even closer to him than that!

Then Gabriel revealed to the servant of Allah, Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), what he revealed to him from Allah, the Most High.

The heart of Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) did not lie about what he saw with his sight; rather, it confirmed it, verified it, and knew it with certainty.

How can you—O disbelievers of the Quraysh—then dispute with Muhammad regarding what he told you that he saw on the night of Al-Isrā'?!

Muhammad certainly saw Gabriel a second time in his true form, which Allah created him in.

Muhammad saw Gabriel at a great lote tree in the heaven called the Lote Tree of the Utmost Boundary.

At the Lote Tree of the Utmost Boundary is the Paradise in which the believers will take refuge and to which they will end up on the Day of Judgment.

Muhammad saw Gabriel when the Lote Tree of the Utmost Boundary was overwhelmed with divine splendors from the command of Allah Almighty!

The sight of Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) did not swerve right or left, nor did it exceed the limit of what he saw.

Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) certainly saw on the night of Isrā' and Mi'rāj some of the greatest signs of his Lord and the wonders of His dominion.

Have you considered—O disbelievers—the idols of Lāt and 'Uzzā

And the third one, Manāt, as well, that you worship besides Allah, and claim that they are the daughters of Allah?

Do you choose for yourselves—O polytheists—male children, preferring them over females, and ascribe to Allah Almighty the females whom you hate and do not accept as daughters for yourselves?!

That division of yours—O polytheists—is unfair and unjust, deviating from the truth and correctness!

These names, which you have given to your idols—Lāt, 'Uzzā, and Manāt—are nothing but mere names with no underlying meaning and no reality to them. You and your forefathers have made them up, claiming them to be gods and alleging that they are the daughters of Allah! Allah has sent down no evidence or proof to support what you have claimed and alleged about them! The polytheists follow nothing but illusions and

whatever their souls incline toward of falsehood, without knowledge or certainty, nor evidence or proof, although true guidance has already come to those polytheists from their Lord, as He has sent down the Qur'an to them, containing the command to worship Allah alone and clarifying the truth from falsehood.

Or does man have whatever good he wishes for and desires?!

Rather, to Allah alone belongs the dominion of the Hereafter and this world, and to Him alone belongs absolute control over them both; He gives whom He wills whatever He wills, and He withholds from whom He wills whatever He wills; so the matter is as the Most Merciful wills, not as man wishes.

How numerous are the angels in the heavens, and their intercession does not avail anything except after Allah gives permission for intercession to whom He wills among them, and after He is pleased with those interceded for, who are the people of monotheism!

Indeed, those who do not believe in the Hereafter give the angels female names and claim that they are the daughters of Allah, the Exalted!

The polytheists have no sound knowledge to rely upon in proving the validity of their claim that the angels are the daughters of Allah, such as witnessing their creation, reading about it in one of

the Books of Allah, or hearing a messenger confirm the truth of their claim. In this claim of theirs, they follow nothing but false conjecture, without knowledge or certainty! And indeed, assumption based on conjecture avails nothing against the truth, nor can it take its place.

So turn away—O Muhammad—from whoever turns away from the Qur'an and seeks nothing but the life of this world and its pleasures.

Seeking the worldly life and striving for it is the limit of their knowledge and its ultimate goal, for they have no knowledge beyond that. Indeed, your Lord, O Muhammad, knows best who has strayed from His path and did not follow the truth, and He knows best those who are guided to the truth.

To Allah alone belongs the dominion of all that is in the heavens and all that is on earth, so that Allah may recompense the evildoers according to what they did of disbelief or disobedience, and that Allah may reward those who do good, by believing in Him and obeying Him, with the best reward, which is Paradise.

Those who avoid major sins and shameful acts, such as adultery, except minor sins without persisting in them are pardoned, and this does not exclude their doer from among the righteous. Indeed, your Lord—O Muhammad—is vast in forgiveness for the sins of His servants; He conceals them for them and overlooks holding them

accountable for them. And your Lord knows you best when He created your father Adam from the earth before you existed, and He knew you when you were hidden fetuses in the wombs of your mothers before you were born. So do not claim innocence for yourselves from sins and misdeeds, nor praise yourselves for good deeds, for Allah knows best who among you fears His wrath and punishment, thereby obeying His commands and avoiding His prohibitions.

Have you seen, O Muhammad, the one who turned away from the truth?

And gave a little good, and then stopped, and did not continue doing so!

Does he have knowledge of what is hidden from people, so he sees it?!

Or has this disbeliever not been informed of what is in the Torah, which Allah revealed to Moses?

Or has he not also been informed of what was in the scriptures of Abraham, who was obedient to Allah Almighty in all His commands and prohibitions, and fulfilled the laws of Islam, which Allah enjoined upon him, without omitting anything from them?

That which is in the scriptures of Abraham and Moses is that no sinful soul shall bear the sin of another, for every person is recompensed for their own deeds, and shall not bear the sin of another.

And that man can have nothing in the Hereafter but what he did in this worldly life.

And that the deeds of every doer will be seen and witnessed on the Day of Resurrection.

Then Allah will recompense him for his striving with the fullest and complete recompense.

And that to your Lord, O Muhammad, is the return and final destination of all servants, not to anyone else.

And that Allah Almighty is the One Who makes laugh and makes weep whom He wills to make them laugh or make them weep.

And that Allah Almighty is the One Who causes whom He wills among His creation to die, and gives life to whom He wills among them.

And that Allah Almighty is He Who created the pairs: male and female.

Allah created the pairs—male and female—from a drop of semen when it is poured and emitted into the wombs.

And that it is upon Allah Almighty to create people after their death, bringing them back to life on the Day of Resurrection.

And that Allah Almighty is the One who enriches whom He wills of His servants, and grants to whom He wills among them what they acquire and save beyond their needs.

And that Allah Almighty is the Creator of the bright star Sirius, its Owner, and the Disposer of its affairs.

And that Allah Almighty destroyed the tribe of 'Ād, the people of Hūd!

And that Allah Almighty destroyed the tribe of Thamūd; the people of Sālih, and spared none of them!

And that Allah Almighty destroyed the people of Noah by drowning before 'Ād and Thamūd! Indeed, the people of Noah were truly far worse in wrongdoing, and greater in disbelief and transgression than others.

And Gabriel brought down the town of the people of Lot and turned it upside down.

How overwhelming was what covered that town of the stones that were rained down on them.

So which of the favors of your Lord—O man—do you doubt and question, and deny and dispute?!

This Messenger Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is a warner to mankind, of the same kind as the messengers who preceded him.

The imminent Day of Resurrection has approached and drawn near to you, O people!

None besides Allah can avert it, and none has knowledge of it except Him.

Do you find this Qur'an astonishing, O polytheists?!

And you laugh at the Qur'an in mockery, and do not weep out of admonition and fear?!

While you are heedless and playing.

So prostrate to Allah alone in submission to Him, and worship Him alone with sincere devotion to Him.

The Day of Judgment, on which Allah will resurrect His servants for reckoning and recompense, has drawn near! And the moon has split, becoming two halves by the permission of Allah, in support of His Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

Whenever the polytheists of the Quraysh see a dazzling sign indicating to them the truthfulness of the prophethood of Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), they turn away from believing in it and say in denial, "What Muhammad shows us of miracles—like the splitting of the moon—is passing, false magic with no permanence, and an illusion with no reality!

They denied the truth and followed what they desired and chose falsehood without evidence or proof. Every matter must eventually settle at its ultimate end in this world or in the Hereafter; thus, the truth is established, and falsehood is bound to perish, and the people of good will settle in Paradise, and the people of evil will settle in the Hellfire.

There has come to the polytheists of the Quraysh, from the stories of the nations that denied their messengers and the destruction that befell them—a sufficient deterrent from disbelief in Allah and the denial of His signs and His messengers.

Perfect, complete wisdom—having reached the utmost perfection, with no deficiency or flaw in it—reaches its intended purpose, but warnings do not benefit them while they turn away from the signs.

So turn away, O Muhammad, from these stubborn deniers on the Day the caller of Allah calls people to a horrific situation of severe hardship, full of horrors, the likes of which people have never seen.

They will emerge from their graves with their eyes downcast and submissive due to the intensity of their fear and dread! They will emerge from the graves, proceeding to the place of reckoning, as if in their spread and multitudes they were swarming locusts.

They will emerge from their graves, advancing and rushing towards the Caller in response to his call. The disbelievers in Allah will say on the Day of Resurrection, "This is a day of extreme hardship, difficulty, and severity."

Before the disbelievers of the Quraysh, the people of Noah denied. They denied Our servant Noah when We sent him to them, and they said

about him, "He is a madman." And they rebuked him with severity and violence.

So Noah called upon his Lord, saying, "Indeed, my people have overpowered me with their rebellion and disbelief and their denial and intimidation; so help me against them!"

So We answered Noah's prayer against his people, and We opened the gates of heaven with water pouring down heavily and intensely.

And We caused the water to gush forth from the earth with force and abundance, so the water of the sky and the water of the earth met for a matter that Allah Almighty had already written and decreed!

And We carried Noah on an Ark made of planks of wood, and nails with which those planks were fastened.

Noah's ark sails on the water before Our eyes, and with Our protection and care. So We drowned the people of Noah and saved him and those with him as a reward for Noah for his patience over the harm of his people, and their denial and disbelief in him.

We have left what We did to the people of Noah and Our destruction of them as a lesson and an admonition for those after them, so that they may desist from disbelief in Allah and the denial of His messengers, lest their end be like the end of the people of Noah. And We have kept ships as a sign of Allah's mercy and His care for His creation, the

perfection of His power, and His wondrous making, and as a lesson of what happened to Noah with his people. So is there anyone who will remember what was done to that nation that disbelieved in its Lord and disobeyed His messenger Noah, so that they may take heed and learn a lesson?

Then how was My punishment for those disbelievers from the people of Noah? And how were My warnings?

We have certainly made the Qur'an easy to remember, understand, and take heed from. So is there anyone who will remember, and thereby take heed and be mindful of what is in the Noble Qur'an?

The tribe of 'Ād denied their messenger Hūd, so how was My punishment for them as a recompense for their denial? And how was My warning?

Indeed, We sent against them, when they persisted in their disbelief, a cold, fiercely blowing wind with a howling sound, on a day of continuous misfortune and evil for 'Ād, which continued against them with its ill omen.

The wind violently and fiercely uproots the disbelievers of 'Ād, lifting them up, then throwing them and casting them to the ground, striking them dead, and after their destruction, their corpses become like the trunks of palm trees uprooted from their roots!

Then how was My punishment upon 'Ād for their disbelief?! And how was My warning?!

We have certainly made the Qur'an easy for remembrance, attaining understanding, and taking heed from it. So is there anyone who will remember, and thus take heed and draw lessons from what is in the Noble Qur'an?

The tribe of Thamūd—the people of Sālih—denied the warnings that came to them from Allah, which warned them of His punishment!

So the disbelievers of Thamud said, in their denial of the Prophet of Allah, Salih, peace be upon him, "He is a human being like us, and just a single man, so how can we follow him?! Indeed, if we were to follow him, we would surely be straying from the truth and what is right, and in misery and torment!

They said, "Has the revelation been sent down upon this man, singling him out for prophethood from among us?! How can that be? And what merit does he have over us to deserve that?! He is nothing but a liar, full of insolence, tyranny, and arrogance; he is conceited, claiming what is not his!

Allah Almighty said, "They will soon know when the punishment comes to them: who is the liar, the excessively exultant, tyrannical, and arrogant? Is it Sālih or his people?!

Indeed, We are sending the she-camel as a test and trial for Thamūd; so either they will believe in Allah and follow His Prophet Sālih, or they will deny him and disbelieve in Allah Almighty. So watch, O Sālih, and see what trial befalls them when the she-

camel appears, and what they will do to her, and be patient with them with a strong and profound patience.

And tell them that the water of the town is divided between them and the she-camel; she has a day on which she drinks from that water, and they have a day on which they drink from it. So when it is the she-camel's day, she comes to her share of the water, and when it is Thamūd's day, they come to their share of the water.

So the disbelievers of Thamūd called a companion of theirs, the most wretched of them, to hamstring the she-camel, and he proceeded to kill her himself.

So how was My punishment of Thamūd for their disbelief? And how was My warning which leaves no excuse for anyone?

Indeed, We sent against Thamūd a single great blast, and it destroyed them! So they became like the crushed plants and broken dry twigs gathered by fence-builders.

We have certainly made the Qur'an easy for remembrance, attaining understanding, and taking heed from it. So is there anyone who will remember, so as to take heed and learn lessons from what is in the Qur'an?

The people of Lot denied the warnings that came to them from Allah, which warned them of His punishment.

Indeed, We sent upon the people of Lot stones rained down upon them to destroy them, except Lot and those who followed his religion and believed in him. We surely saved them from the punishment at dawn, in the last hour of the night.

As a blessing from Us upon them and an honor for them from Us! Just as We saved Lot and his family from the punishment because of their obedience to Allah Almighty—We also save everyone who gives thanks to Us for the blessings We have bestowed upon them, and thus believes in Allah and obeys Him.

Lot had already warned his people and cautioned them of Our severe assault before its occurrence, but they doubted his warnings and denied them.

The people of Lot demanded that he enable them to commit the obscene act with his guests, and they persisted in their demand repeatedly. So We obliterated their eyes so they became like the rest of the face without an opening, and they could not see! They were told, "Taste then—O people of Lot—My punishment which has befallen you, and the consequence of My warnings with which you were warned!"

And indeed, a lasting punishment that does not cease struck the people of Lot early in the morning.

So taste—O assembly of the people of Lot—My punishment that has befallen you and the

consequence of my warnings with which you were warned.

And We have certainly made the Qur'an easy for remembrance, attaining understanding, and taking heed from it. So is there anyone who will remember, and thus take heed and draw lessons from what is in the Noble Qur'an?

And indeed, the warnings came to Pharaoh and his people, warning them of the punishment of Allah Almighty.

But Pharaoh and his people rejected all the signs of Allah Almighty indicating the truth, so We seized them with the grip of One Who is Severe, All-Strong, Who cannot be overcome; the Most Powerful, Who is never incapable of whatever He wills!

Are your disbelievers—O assembly of the Quraysh—better than those whom I destroyed for their disbelief and denial, such as the people of Noah, 'Ād, Thamūd, the people of Lot, and the family of Pharaoh? No! They are not better than them, so beware of the punishment of Allah if you persist in your disbelief and denial. Or do you—O disbelievers of the Quraysh—have a written absolution in the pages of the former divine scriptures, so that you are absolved from the consequences of your disbelief and denial, and safe from the punishment of your Lord?!

Or do the disbelievers of the Quraysh say, "We are a large group bound to prevail, so we will defeat Muhammad and those with him"?!

The gathering of the disbelievers of the Quraysh will be defeated, and they will scatter and flee from the Muslims, turning their backs in retreat!

The matter is not as the polytheists claim, for they will inevitably be resurrected after their death and recompensed with a complete punishment for their disbelief; the Hour is the appointed time for their ultimate torment, and whatever befalls them in this world is merely a prelude to it. The Hour is far more horrendous and devastating, and more painful and bitter than killing or any other worldly punishment that may afflict them!

Indeed, the polytheists are in error, and in hardship, misery, and torment.

The Day those criminals will be dragged into the Fire on their faces, which are the most honorable visible parts of their bodies, thereby being humiliated and disgraced! And it will be said to them, "Taste the pain of the Fire and its torment."

Indeed, We have created everything perfectly preordained, according to a determined measure.

Our command when We intend a thing is but that We say to it once, "Be," and what We willed comes into being in the blink of an eye, without delay!

We have certainly destroyed your likes and counterparts in disbelief—O people of the

Quraysh—from the former nations that disbelieved in Allah and denied their messengers. So is there anyone who will take heed, knowing that the way of Allah for the former and the latter peoples is the same, and taking a lesson from Allah's destruction of the past disbelievers, so as to beware of becoming like them?!

Everything they did is found in the scrolls and records wherein the guardian angels enumerate their deeds.

And everything, small and big, is written and recorded.

Indeed, those who feared the wrath of Allah and His punishment by obeying His commands and avoiding His prohibitions will be in gardens with rivers flowing therein.

In a seat of honor, firm and everlasting, perfect in its bliss, with no falsehood, idle talk, or sins therein, in the presence of a Great King of absolute sovereignty, the Most Powerful over all things, and He is Allah, the Exalted and Most High!

Allah: The Extensively Merciful, the Bestower of abundant blessings upon His servants in their religion, their worldly life, and their Hereafter.

Ar-Rahmān (the Most Compassionate)—the Exalted—taught His servants the words of the Qur'an and its meanings, and made them easy for them.

The Most Compassionate created Adam and his progeny.

The Most Compassionate taught man speech and understanding, and how to express what is within himself through words.

The sun and the moon run according to a precise and perfect calculation that neither varies nor falters, and they do not exceed their phases, nor do they delay in their course, so people calculate by them the years, months, days, and times.

And all the stars and the trees prostrate to the Most Compassionate.

And the Most Merciful raised the heaven above the earth, and set justice among His creation on the earth and the instrument by which justice is known.

So that you may not transgress the limits and act unjustly.

And establish the weight of things with perfect justice, and do not decrease the weight, but rather give rights fully and completely.

And the earth, the Most Compassionate, lowered it and leveled it for His creation.

On the earth are various fruits, different in their colors, tastes, and scents, and on the earth are palm trees whose fruits are covered by sheaths that split open, from which emerge date stalks.

And on the earth are edible grains—such as wheat, barley, and the like—with dry leaves and husks, and in the earth are fragrant plants, which

are plants with a beautiful scent, smelled for their pleasant fragrance.

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?

Allah created Adam, the father of humankind, from intensely hard, dry clay that had a ringing sound when tapped, like pottery, which is clay baked by fire.

And Allah created the jinn from a smokeless flame of fire.

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?

Allah is the Creator, Owner, and Controller of the sunrise in winter and summer, and the sunset in winter and summer.

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

Allah releases the salty sea and the fresh sea and lets them meet without mixing.

Between the salty sea and the fresh sea is a barrier that prevents one from mixing with the other and changing its taste and characteristics.

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

Out of the two bodies of water—the salty and the fresh—come forth pearls and coral, which people use as jewelry and ornaments.

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

And to Allah belong—in ownership, management, and subjugation—the sailing ships that people have built, appearing on the seas like mountains.

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

Everyone on earth, whether human, jinn, or others, will perish and not remain.

And the Face of your Lord remains, O Muhammad, characterized by Majesty and Honor, deserving of magnification and love, and affirming the attributes of perfection and beauty, for Allah, the Mighty and Majestic, is the Ever-Living Who never dies.

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

All those in the heavens and earth turn to Allah, asking Him for their needs. Every day, Allah Almighty brings about a great affair, such as giving life to some and causing others to die, relieving a distress, forgiving a sin, answering a supplication, healing a sick person, enriching a poor person, teaching an ignorant person, guiding a misguided person, or giving honour to a people and disgrace to others!

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

We will attend to your reckoning on the Day of Resurrection—O assembly of humans and jinn—

and recompense you with reward or punishment according to your deeds.

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

O assembly of jinn and mankind, if you are able to pass beyond the boundaries of the heavens and earth and their vast regions, exiting them to flee from your Lord so that He cannot overpower you, then do so! You do not have—O assembly of jinn and mankind—the ability to pass beyond the regions of the heavens and earth except by power, subjugation, and dominance, which you do not possess!

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

There will be sent against you both—O assembly of jinn and humans—immense, spreading smokeless flames of fire, and there will be sent against you smoke with flying sparks, and molten copper, and you will not be able to defend yourselves—O assembly of jinn and humans! You will neither be able to protect yourselves from His punishment on your own, nor by any helper besides yourselves.

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

Then when the heaven is rent asunder on the Day of Judgment, and it becomes red like a rose, like oil.

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

On that Day no human or jinn will be asked about the sin he committed!

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

The criminals will be recognized on the Day of Resurrection by marks that distinguish them from others, then they will be seized by their forelocks and feet, and thrown into Hell.

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

They will be told, "This is the Hell whose existence the wicked denied in the worldly life; here it is present, and they witness it in the Hereafter with their own eyes!"

The wicked will go back and forth between the Fire of Hell and boiling water that has reached the utmost limit in its heat!

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

And for everyone who fears—from mankind and jinn—standing before Allah for the reckoning on the Day of Resurrection, and thus fears Him in this world by carrying out His commands and shunning His prohibitions, there will be two Gardens in the Hereafter.

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

These two Gardens have many branches.

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

In these two Gardens are two flowing springs.

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

In the two gardens are two different types of every kind of fruit.

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

Blissfully reclining on beds whose inner linings facing the ground are made of thick, shiny silk. So what about their outer surfaces that touch their skin?! And the fruit of these two Gardens will be close to their inhabitants so they can pick it easily and effortlessly.

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

Therein will be women who have restricted their gaze to their husbands, so they do not look at anyone but them, nor do they desire anyone other than them. No one from mankind or jinn has had intercourse with them to break their virginity before their husbands.

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

Those Houris of wide and beautiful eyes are like rubies and coral in purity and color.

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

What is the reward for those who do good in this world except that Allah rewards them with bliss in the Hereafter?!

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

And besides the two Gardens—previously mentioned—are two other gardens, lower than both in rank and excellence.

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

These two gardens are dark green from the intensity of their greenness.

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

In these two gardens are two springs gushing with water forcefully.

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

In these two gardens are fruits, date palms, and pomegranates.

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

In them are women of the best qualities, morals, and traits, and beautiful in faces and bodies; they are at the utmost peak of beauty in both physical form and character!

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

Among their descriptions is that they are fair-skinned with intensely black and white eyes, secluded and confined in houses of hollow pearls.

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

No human or jinn has ever had intercourse with them and deflowered them before their husbands.

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

They will delight in reclining on fine, rich green garments hanging down from their couches, and reclining on mattresses of surpassing beauty, exquisite craftsmanship, and lovely appearance!

Then which of the favors of your Lord will you both deny, O assembly of humans and jinn?!

Blessed is the Name of your Lord, O Muhammad, for all blessings are from Him, and everything upon which it is mentioned is blessed, the Possessor of magnificent greatness, Who is worthy of magnification and worship, Who honours His servants with His bounties, and Who is deserving of honour and love from all His creation.

When the Resurrection occurs, and its occurrence is confirmed.

There will be none to deny its occurrence, for it is an absolute truth, occurring with certainty, inevitably!

It will bring down some people to Hellfire, so they will enter Hell, even if they were noble in this worldly life; and it will raise others to Paradise, so they will attain bliss, even if they were lowly in this worldly life!

When the earth, despite its vastness and heaviness, is quaked, and is violently shaken, so it convulses and trembles!

And the mountains, despite their greatness and solidity, will be crushed to pieces!

And the mountains will become tiny particles of dust, floating and dispersing, like those seen in the reflection of sun rays in a dark place!

And you—O people—will be divided into three categories according to your deeds in the worldly life.

The first category: the people of the right who will enter Paradise—and how great is the status of the people of the right!

And the second group: the people of the left who will enter the Fire, and how terrible is the condition of the people of the left!

Then Allah mentioned the third category, saying: Those who are foremost in faith and righteous deeds, and hasten to perform good deeds—they will be the foremost to enter the Gardens and attain honors.

Those are the ones whom Allah Almighty brings near to Him.

In Gardens of Bliss, enjoying an everlasting and uninterrupted delight, both physical and spiritual.

They are a large group of the former generations.
And a small number of the later generations.

Their seats will be on couches woven with gold and other gems and pearls!

Reclining on those couches, facing each other, none looking at the back of another, for none of them will be behind another!

They will be waited on by young boys who will never grow old nor die!

They will be waited on by youths with round cups having no spouts or handles, and pitchers whose color sparkles from their clarity, having spouts and handles. And the youths will pass around to them cups of pure, flowing wine, springing forth just as water springs, without interruption!

Drinking from that wine will cause them no headache, nor will its drinkers be intoxicated by it and lose their minds, nor will their drink be exhausted.

And the boys will go around them with fruits of their choice from the wide variety of fruits in Paradise.

And the youths will go around them with the meat of birds that they desire to eat.

And they will have fair maidens, with intense blackness and whiteness of their eyes, with wide and gorgeous eyes.

In their whiteness, beauty, and purity, those maidens resemble pristine, white, glistening pearls, well-protected from the touch of hands and exposure to dust, sun, and winds!

The Gardens of Bliss were only a reward for those foremost, brought near, because of the righteous deeds that they used to do in the worldly life.

They will not hear in those Gardens any idle speech that lacks benefit, nor will they hear therein any sinful talk that harms them.

The people of Paradise will hear therein only greetings of peace, and speech that is free from idle speech and sin.

The people of the right—how great is their status, and how excellent is their condition!

They will be among thornless lote trees, whose branches are weighed down with abundant fruit.

And among "talh" (thornless trees), having arranged fruit, layered and closely packed together, in a most beautiful arrangement.

And they are in constant and everlasting shade that neither recedes nor disappears.

And in poured water, flowing without a channel, never ceasing.

And in abundant fruits of various kinds

Those fruits never cease from them at any time, nor does anything ever prevent them from eating them.

And they are on high and elevated beds.

Indeed, We have created the women of the people of Paradise as a new creation, and We brought them into existence.

And We made them virgin maidens.

We made them express intense love for their husbands, and made them of equal age in the prime of youth.

We created those women with those attributes for the people of the right.

And the companions of the right are a large group from the former generations.

And a large group from the later generations.

And the companions of the left, how terrible is their affair! And how awful is their condition!

They will be in a scorching wind and a boiling drink!

And in the shade of pitch-black smoke!

It is a shade, neither cool nor pleasant-looking!

Indeed, before this torment, the people of the left were spoiled by luxury, extravagance, and the pursuit of desires in worldly life; thus, they deserved those punishments.

And in the worldly life, they were persisting in the great sin, which is associating partners with Allah Almighty.

And they used to say, denying the resurrection on the Day of Judgment, "When we die and become dust and bones in our graves, will we really be resurrected alive after that?!"

And will our forefathers also be resurrected?!

Say—O Muhammad—to those who deny the Resurrection, "Indeed, the former and later people from among you or among others"

All will surely be gathered together through resurrection and assembling for an appointed time with Allah, which is the Day of Resurrection.

Then indeed you, after your resurrection, O you who have strayed from the path of guidance, the deniers of the truth

You will certainly eat from a tree of foul appearance, taste, and smell!

Then you will fill your bellies from the tree of Zaqqūm, due to your extreme hunger and your desperate need to eat.

Then on top of this Zaqqūm, with which you have filled your bellies, you will drink boiling water that has reached the extreme limit of heat!

And you will drink this boiling water like thirsty camels afflicted with a disease that leaves them unquenched by water!

This food and drink of Zaqqūm and boiling water will be a welcome reception for those misguided deniers, prepared for them upon their arrival on the Day of Judgment, when Allah will hold His

servants accountable and recompense them for their deeds.

It is We Who created you—O disbelievers who deny the Resurrection—the first time from nothing. Will you not then believe your Creator when He informs you that you will be raised alive on the Day of Resurrection after your death?! For He Who was able to initiate your creation is even more capable of recreating you.

Have you considered the semen you emit into the wombs of your women?

Is it you who create it, or is it We Who are the Creators of it?

We have ordained death among you, so no human can escape death at the time Allah Almighty has decreed for it, and nothing can overcome Us or prevent Us.

And We are neither overcome nor incapable of transforming your forms and figures, and recreating you anew in a creation that you do not know, of forms and appearances, states and attributes!

And you certainly know our creation of you the first time, and you were nothing before that! Will you not then remember this, so that you may know that the One Who created you the first time, when you were nothing, is not incapable of bringing you back to life after your death?!

Have you thought about the seed for which you cleave the earth and till it, then cast it therein so that it may grow?

Is it you who turn that seed into a crop, or is it We Who make it grow by Our power?

If We willed, We could reduce that crop—which We cause to grow—to dry chaff so you would derive no benefit from it! Leaving you to wonder and lament over the destruction of your harvest, all your joy and merriment having vanished!

Then you will say, "We are truly punished!"

"Rather, we are deprived of the benefit of our harvest and the attainment of its good, so we have no share in it!"

Have you thought about the fresh water that you drink?

Is it you who bring down this water from the clouds to the earth, or is it We Who bring it down by Our power?

If We willed, We could make that fresh water salty and intensely bitter, so you could neither drink it nor benefit from it! Will you not then give thanks to Allah, Who has provided you with pure fresh water!

Have you thought about the fire that you extract from the trees by striking, and which you kindle?

Is it you who produced the tree from which the fire emerges, or is it We Who produced it by Our power?

We have made that fire a reminder for people of the fire of Hell, so they may take heed and be deterred out of fear of it, and We made the fire of this world a benefit for travelers; for cooking, heating, lighting, and other such things.

So exalt your Lord, who is characterized by the perfection of greatness—O Muhammad—far above every deficiency and flaw, saying: Subhāna Rabbi al-Azīm (Glory be to my Lord, the Magnificent).

I swear by the positions of the stars in the sky.

And verily this oath is indeed great, if only you knew its magnitude and greatness!

I swear that this Qur'an revealed to Muhammad is a Qur'an of magnificent beauty and benefit, goodness and bounty; characterized by attributes of perfection and beauty, free from every trace of deficiency, flaw, and ugliness!

Indeed, the Qur'an is preserved with Allah Almighty in a Book protected from all evil.

None touches this well-preserved Book except the angels whom Allah Almighty has purified from sins and flaws.

This Noble Qur'an is a revelation from the Lord of the worlds; it is the truth in which there is no doubt.

Do you then disbelieve and deny this Qur'an?!

And do you make your gratitude for your provision denial; thus placing denial in the place

of gratitude, and repaying Allah's favor upon you with disbelief in it?!

Then why, when the soul of the dying person reaches his throat as it departs from his body

And you—O you who are present with the dying person—are looking on at him while he is in the agonies of death, and you cannot return his soul to its place.

And Our angels—whom We send to the dying person to seize his soul—are nearer to him than you—O you who are present with him—but you cannot see them.

Now, if you, O deniers of resurrection, are not subjugated and owned, not held accountable, and not subject to recompense for your deeds

Why do you not bring back the soul of the dying person to his body, if you are truthful in your claim of denying the resurrection, the reckoning, and the recompense?

So, if the deceased is one of those brought near to Allah, the Exalted and Most High,

Then such a person will have comfort, joy, and mercy, good provision and a fragrance, and he will have a Paradise in which he will enjoy bliss.

If the dying person is one of the people of the right

Then it will be said to him, "Peace be to you, for being one of the people of the right."

But if the deceased is one of the deniers of the signs of Allah, and is astray from His path.

Then they will have the hospitality of a drink that has reached the utmost limit of heat!

And he will have an extremely blazing fire whose heat he will suffer.

Indeed, what has been mentioned regarding those brought near, the people of the right, and the misguided deniers, as well as their ultimate destination, is definitely certain news in which there is no doubt, and an established matter that must inevitably come to pass.

So declare your Lord, who is characterized by perfect greatness, O Muhammad, far exalted from every deficiency and flaw, saying: Subhāna Rabbi al-Azīm (Glory be to my Lord, the Magnificent).

All those in the heavens and on the earth glorify Allah Almighty above any shortcomings and flaws, and Allah is the Overpowering Who cannot be overcome. Nothing is impossible for Him, and He is the All-Wise Who places everything in its correct and appropriate place.

To Allah alone belongs the dominion of the heavens and earth; He has no partner in their creation, nor in their management and control. He gives life to whom He wills and causes death to whom He wills of His creation. He possesses absolute power, so nothing is beyond His power, the Exalted.

He alone is the One Who existed eternally before everything, without a beginning, and the One Who remains forever after everything, without an end. He alone is the Most High in His essence above all of His creation, so there is nothing above Him. He alone is the Hidden beneath Whom there is nothing; He has encompassed everything, such that He is closer to it than it is to itself. He possesses absolute and perfect knowledge of everything, so nothing is hidden from Him.

He alone is the One Who created the heavens and earth in six Days, then He rose over His Throne after creating the heavens and earth, a rising that befits His Majesty. Allah knows what goes into the earth and disappears within it of water, seeds, animals, the dead, treasures, and other things; and He knows what emerges from the earth of plants, animals, minerals, and other things. And Allah Almighty knows what descends from the heaven of angels, rain, hail, snow, thunderbolts, provisions, revelation, and other things; and He knows what ascends into the heaven of angels, souls, deeds, vapors, and other things. And Allah is with you by His Knowledge and encompassment, Watchful over you, a Witness to your deeds wherever you may be, on land or sea, by night or day. Nothing of your deeds is hidden from Him, and He will recompense you for them.

To Allah alone belongs the dominion of the heavens and earth; He has no partner in their creation, nor in managing and controlling them, and to Allah alone, and to none other, is the return of all affairs.

Allah causes the darkness of the night to enter into the light of the day so it disappears within it, and Allah causes the light of the day to enter into the darkness of the night so it disappears within it. And He alone has perfect knowledge of the innermost thoughts and secrets of His servants; nothing of them is hidden from Him.

Believe in Allah Almighty and declare His Oneness, and believe in His Messenger Muhammad, affirm his truthfulness, acknowledge his message and what he brought, and follow him. Persist in that belief and remain steadfast upon it. And spend from the wealth of Allah in which He has made you successors and placed with you as a trust, so give charity from it in His cause. For those among you who believe in Allah and His Messenger, and spend in His cause from their wealth in which He has made them successors—they will have a great reward.

What compels you not to believe in Allah, while His Messenger Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) invites you to believe in your Lord, Who is benevolent to you, while Allah has

already taken a covenant from you to believe if you are true believers?!

Allah Almighty is the One Who sends down upon His Servant Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) verses of the Qur'an as clear evidence of the truth, that He may bring you out thereby from the darkneses of disbelief, polytheism, misguidance, and ignorance into the light of faith, monotheism, guidance, and certainty. And indeed, Allah is Ever Gracious and Most Merciful to you, for He has sent down His Books and sent His messengers for your guidance.

What prevents you from spending in the cause of Allah from what He has provided you, while all the possessions of creation will return to Allah Almighty alone after their death?! So there is no sense in being stingy with something you do not truly own, and from which you will depart! Not equal in virtue and reward are those among you—O believers—who spent in the cause of Allah before the conquest—which is the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah—and fought the enemies of the religion, with those who spent and fought after the conquest! Those—who spent and fought before the conquest—are higher in rank with Allah than those who spent and fought after the conquest. Yet, to each of the two groups, Allah has promised the triumph of Paradise, even though the predecessors are better than the successors. And Allah is fully

Aware of your deeds, both apparent and hidden, and He will recompense you for them.

Who is it that spends in the cause of Allah from his good wealth, seeking reward for his spending, desiring what is with his Lord without reproach or harm, so that Allah may reward him for that spending with many rewards that may reach seven hundred times or more, and he will have a good reward and a beautiful recompense?!

On the Day you see the believing men and women on the Day of Resurrection, their light proceeding with them before them and on their right, it will be said to the believing men and women: Your great glad tidings this Day—i.e., the Day of Resurrection—are gardens you will enter, beneath which rivers flow—of water, milk, wine, or honey, abiding in those gardens, never to leave them forever. And entering those gardens in the Hereafter and abiding eternally therein: that is the great gain and ultimate triumph.

On that Day the hypocrite men and women will say to those believing men and women, "Wait for us and give us time, so that we may catch up with you and acquire a spark of your light!" It will be said to those hypocrite men and women, in mockery of them, "Go back behind you and seek a light for yourselves from there!" Then Allah will set up a barrier wall between the believers and the hypocrites, separating them. That barrier wall

between the believers and the hypocrites has a gate through which the believers enter. The interior of that wall, from the side of the believers: in it is Paradise, and the exterior of the wall, from the side adjacent to the hypocrites and appearing to them: from its direction comes the torment of Hell.

The hypocrites will call out to the believers from behind the barrier wall between them, while they are in darkness and torment, "Were we not with you in the worldly life, praying, fasting, remembering Allah, professing Islam, and doing just as you did?!" The believers will say to them, "You were indeed with us in the worldly life outwardly, but without a sincere intention or true faith. So you destroyed yourselves with hypocrisy, which is hidden disbelief! And you awaited the misfortunes and calamities of time to destroy the believers! And you doubted the truth that came from Allah Almighty, and your false desires deceived you, turning you away from following the truth, until death came to you! And Satan deceived you concerning Allah Almighty.

The believers will say to the hypocrites who concealed their disbelief, "So on this day—the Day of Resurrection—no ransom of wealth will be taken from you in exchange for the punishment of Allah to save you from it, nor will a ransom be taken from those who openly declared their disbelief. So there is no escape for you from the Fire, for you are all

partners in disbelief! Your abode and dwelling place to which you will proceed and reside is the Fire. It is your companion that will cling to you and embrace you, your place of closeness, and your destiny; so there is no destiny other than it! And what a wretched destination the Fire is!"

Has the time not yet come for the believers that their hearts should soften, become tender, and become humbly submissive at the remembrance of Allah and what has been revealed of the Qur'an, and that they should not be like the Jews and Christians upon whom Allah sent down the Scripture—the Torah and the Gospel, which required the humbling of the heart and complete submission—before the revelation of the Noble Qur'an to you? Then a long period of time passed over the People of the Scripture, so their hearts hardened because of the prolonged time, becoming harsh, neither softening to a reminder nor becoming tender to an admonition. And many of them are defiantly disobedient to Allah, astray from the truth and guidance.

Know that Allah Almighty revives the earth after its dryness and barrenness with the water sent down from the sky. Likewise, Allah revives the heart after its hardness and rigidity with the revelation sent down from the sky. We have clarified and shown you the signs indicating the

truth, so that you may understand, take heed, and act accordingly.

Indeed, those men and women who give in charity in the cause of Allah from their good wealth, seeking the reward for their spending, desiring what is with their Lord without reminders of their favor or hurtful words—Allah will reward them for that spending with multiple rewards, which may reach seven hundredfold or more! And they will have a good reward and a beautiful recompense.

Those who believe in Allah and His messengers are the truthful ones who are at the utmost level of truthfulness and abundant affirmation of what must be believed, so there is not the slightest doubt in their hearts. And the martyrs: they will have the reward of Allah in the Hereafter, and they will have their light. But those who disbelieve in Allah and His messengers and deny the verses of the Qur'an that indicate the truth—it is they who are inseparable from the intensely burning Fire.

Know that the reality of worldly life is that it is play and vain amusement, fleeting with no permanence, and a diversion that distracts, which people rejoice in and enjoy; then it passes away! And the worldly life is an adornment with which you beautify yourselves, relishing its desires and admiring its appearance and splendor, and it is mutual boasting among you; so some of you boast to others about what they have acquired of it! And

it is a competition in increase; you seek to multiply wealth and children in it, and you show off the abundance of that among yourselves! It is like rain that comes after people have despaired, causing the barren earth to grow crops that please the tillers, and then those crops begin to dry and wither, and after their perfect greenness and freshness, they are seen withered and yellow in color! Then, after reaching the utmost of their dryness and withering, they become broken, crumbling debris! And in the Hereafter, a severe punishment will fall upon those who disbelieve in Allah Almighty and His messengers, and in the Hereafter, there will be forgiveness from Allah for the sins of His servants who strived for the Hereafter as it should be strived for, and approval from Allah Almighty, which He bestows upon the people of His Paradise. And what is worldly life but an enjoyment that people enjoy for a short time!

Race with one another and hasten towards deeds that secure the attainment of forgiveness from your Lord for your sins, so that He may conceal them for you and overlook taking you to account. And race towards a Paradise whose width is like the width of the heavens and earth, were they to be spread out and joined to one another. That Paradise is prepared and made ready for those who believe in Allah Almighty and His messengers (peace be upon them). Entering that Paradise is a

bounty from Allah Almighty, which He bestows upon them. And Allah gives His bounty to whom He wills of His servants according to what His wisdom dictates, and Allah is the possessor of great bounty and immense reward.

No calamity occurs on the earth, such as drought and the destruction of its crops and fruits, or within yourselves, such as diseases, pains, poverty, and death—except that it is written in the Preserved Tablet before We create it. Indeed, that is an easy and effortless matter for Allah Almighty; it is not difficult for Him, the Exalted, due to His all-encompassing knowledge and perfect power.

We inform you that every calamity that befalls is in a Record, so that you may not grieve excessively over anything you have missed of worldly provisions, nor rejoice excessively in a manner that leads to arrogance and pride over others regarding what Allah has granted you of worldly provisions. And Allah does not like anyone who is arrogant within himself regarding what he has been given in this world, boastful of it over people.

And despite this arrogance and pride of theirs, they are stingy with the blessings they have been given, refraining from giving what they are obligated to spend from them, and they command others to do the same. And whoever turns away, then indeed, Allah is completely and absolutely Free of need of His creation; the Praiseworthy in

His Essence, His Names, His Attributes, His Actions, and His Words, abundantly praising those who deserve praise from Him.

We have sent Our messengers with clear proofs and evidence indicating their truthfulness, and We sent down with Our messengers the Book with the truth, and We sent down with them justice so that people may deal with it among themselves. And We created iron, wherein is great strength and hardness, and from which weapons of war are made. In iron there are many benefits for people in their livelihoods and diverse needs, and so that Allah may know—a knowledge of observation and manifestation in reality upon which reward and punishment are based—those who support the religion of Allah and support His messengers in the unseen. Indeed, Allah possesses absolute power, so nothing is beyond His power, and possesses perfect might; thus, He is free from any flaw, evil, or deficiency, for He is the Prevailing, the Subduer, who cannot be defeated or overcome!

We certainly sent Noah and Abraham to their people, and We placed in the lineage of Noah and Abraham all the prophets and divine Books after them, such as the Torah, the Psalms, the Gospel, and the Qur'an. So among the descendants of Noah and Abraham are those who are guided to the truth, and many of their descendants are disobedient to Allah, straying from the path of truth and guidance.

Then We sent Our messengers following in their footsteps to their people, sending them one after another, and We sent after them Jesus, son of Mary, and We gave him the Book called the Gospel, and We placed in the hearts of those who followed Jesus in his religion tenderness, gentleness, and mercy. As for monasticism, they invented it on their own—We did not prescribe it for them—so they secluded themselves from people, rejected marriage, abandoned the worldly life, and preferred devotion and dedicating themselves to worship in monasteries, mountains, or elsewhere! They only invented it seeking to please Allah Almighty, but they did not observe the monasticism which they invented with its due observance, nor did they uphold it properly, so We gave the believers among them the reward of their faith, but many of them are rebellious against obedience to Allah, straying from the path of truth and guidance.

O you who believe, fear Allah by obeying His commands and avoiding His prohibitions, and truly believe in His Messenger Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), and remain steadfast upon it—Allah will give you two great portions of His mercy, and Allah will make for you a light through the Qur'an and following the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) by which you will be guided in the worldly life, and Allah will conceal your sins for you, and overlook

punishing you, and Allah is the Most Forgiving and Most Merciful to His servants.

Allah Almighty will grant you this reward if you fear Him and believe in His Messenger so that the Jews and Christians may know that they have no power over any of Allah's bounty that He intends for the Muslims—such as the doubling of the reward, the light, and forgiveness—so they can neither withhold it nor grant it. And so that the People of the Book may know that all bounty is in the Hands of Allah alone, so He gives His bounty to whom He wills among His servants according to His wisdom, the Exalted. Allah is the Possessor of great bounty, so He bestows His favor upon whom He wills with whatever He wills of His many great blessings.

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