21. And those who don’t expect a Meeting with Us, said: “Why are the angels not sent down to us [i.e. (i) angels should be sent as messengers to us (ii) we should see the angels with our eyes and they testify your Prophethood]? Or why do we not see our Creator?” Indeed, they think too high of themselves and are extremely arrogant.

22. On the Day they will see the angels, there will be no glad tidings for the criminals that Day. (Angels will) say: “These are the ones who are absolutely deprived (of any glad tidings).”

23. And We will pay attention to the (good) deeds of the disbelievers (which they did in this world) and make them (useless) like scattered particles of dust.

24. On that Day the residents of Paradise will have an excellent residence and wonderful resting place.

25. And the Day when the sky shall split apart along with the clouds and the angels will be sent down continuously.

26. That Day the sovereignty will be truly for the Most Gracious (Allah) only, and that Day will be very hard for the disbelievers.

27. And that Day the wrong-doer, while biting his hand, will say: “Oh! Would that I had followed the Path of the messenger (سَلَّمَ عِنْهُ)!

28. “Woe to me! Would that I had never made so-and-so my close friend!

29. “He certainly led me astray from the Reminder (the Quran) after it had come to me. And Satan always betrays a man (at the time of need).”

30. And the messenger [Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم)]
will say: “O my Creator! Indeed, my people deserted this Quran (neither listened to it, nor tried to understand its meanings, nor followed its teaching).”

31. And thus We made enemies for every Prophet from the criminal people. And your Creator is Sufficient as a Guide and Helper.

32. And the disbelievers say: “Why is not the Quran sent down to you [O Muhammad (ﷺ)] altogether as one unit?” Thus (We sent down in parts) so that We may strengthen your heart with it and We have recited it to you at a slow pace. (Also Surah Al-Isra:106)

33. [O Muhammad (ﷺ)!] Whatever example they bring to you, We shall reveal to you the truth and a superior explanation of it (this is also the wisdom of sending the Quran in parts).

34. Those people who will be gathered to Hell on their faces, they will have an evil place to reside and they are the most astray from the (Straight) Path.

35. And, indeed, We gave Musa (ﷺ) the Scripture (Taurat) and made his brother, Harun (ﷺ) a helper for him.

36. So We said: “Both of you go to the people who have denied Our proofs”. (They went and guided but the people denied them). Hence We destroyed them completely.

37. And We drowned the people of Nuh (ﷺ) when they denied their messengers, and made them a lesson for mankind (in this world) and We have prepared a painful torment for the wrong-doers (in the Hereafter).

38. And also A’d (people) and Thamud
(people), and the dwellers of well
(scholars differ about them. Imam Tabari
said that they are same as described in
Surah Al-Buruj—Ibn Kathir), and many
communities in between.

39. And for each of them We gave many
examples. (i.e. proofs, which they
denied). And We destroyed them all
completely.

40. And, indeed, they have come across the
town (during their journey to Syria), on
which was rained an evil rain (i.e. people
of Lut (مَدُور)). Why don’t they see (ponder
over) it? In fact, they do not have any
hope to be raised after death.

41. [O Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم)!] When they see
you, they mock at you (stating): “Is this
the one (the poor person) whom Allah has
sent as a messenger?

42. Had we not been patient and steadfast, he
(with his effective speech) would have
almost led us astray from our gods.” And
they will soon know (in the Hereafter)
when they see the torment, who is most
astray from the (Right) Path.

43. [O Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم)!], Have you seen
that person who has made his vain desires
as his god? Can you be guardian of such a
person?

44. Or do you think that most of them hear
(the truth) or understand it? (Not at all.)
They are rather like cattle. In fact, they
are more astray from the Path (than the
cattle).

45. Have you not observed (the power of
Allah), that He makes the shadow (of
standing things) spread over a long
distance (at the time of rising of the sun).
If (He) willed, He would have made the

479
shadow still but We have made the sun its guide (i.e. to change the size of the shadow).

46. Then We withdraw it to Us gradually (and it is replaced by pitch darkness of the night).

47. And He has made the night a covering for you, and sleep for your comfort. And made the day as time to rise (for activities).

48. And He sends the winds as a good tiding in advance before He sends down the rain and We send down pure water from the sky.

49. So that We give life to the dead land and let many of the cattle and mankind, which We have created, drink it.

50. And, We have distributed it (the rain) among the people (according to Our wisdom) so that they learn a lesson from it. In spite of this most people accept nothing but disbelief or ingratitude.

51. And had We willed, We would have sent a warner in every town (we rather made you the warner for the entire Universe).

52. So don’t obey the disbelievers but strive very hard against them with it (i.e. the teachings of the Quran).

53. And He has made two seas joined yet separated. One of them has sweet and thirst-quenching water and the other salty and bitter, and He has put (through His Power) a barrier and a strong partition between them (over long distances).

54. And He has created man from water and made for him the blood relatives and also relatives from his wife’s side. And your Creator is All-Powerful.

55. And they (the disbelievers) worship others
besides Allah while their false gods can neither benefit nor harm them. And the disbeliever is, indeed, the helper (of Satan) against his Creator.

56. And We have not sent you but to give glad tidings (of Paradise to the believers) and to warn (the disbelievers about Hell).

57. [O Muhammad (ﷺ)] Say: “I am not asking you for any reward for this (guidance) except that whosoever wills may seek the Path to his Creator (that will be My reward).”

58. [O Muhammad (ﷺ)!] And put your full trust in the Ever Living One Who does not die, and glorify His Praises, and He is Sufficient as the All-Knower of the sins of His slaves,

59. It is He Who created the heavens and the earth and all that is between them (e.g.plasma) in six Days. Then He rose over the Throne (in a manner that suits His Majesty). He is the Most Gracious (Allah)! [O Muhammad (ﷺ)!] So you may ask about Him from any knowledgeable person. Also see 15:85, 19:65, 20:6, 21:16, 30:8, 32:4 and 38:27.

60. And when it is said to them: “You prostrate yourselves to the Most Gracious (Allah).” The disbelievers say: “And what is the Most Gracious? Shall We fall down in prostration to that which you [O Muhammad (ﷺ)] command us?” And it (this guidance) increases hatred in them.

61. Blessed is He Who has created big stars in the heavens, and He created a lamp with its own light (i.e. the sun) and moon with borrowed or reflected light – (Man has discovered recently that sun has its own
light and moon has borrowed light). Also see 10:5, 71:16

62. And He made the night and the day follow each other in succession, for the person who seeks to learn a lesson or intends to be grateful (to Allah).

63. And the (faithful) slaves of the Most Gracious (Allah) are those who walk on the earth modestly, and when the ignorant people address them (with bad words), they simply reply by ‘Salam’ (to avoid evil).

64. And those who spend the night in worship of their Creator, prostrating and standing.

65. And those who say: “Our Creator! (Please) keep us safe from the torment of Hell. Indeed, it is an ever clinging (i.e. permanent) torment. (Also Surah Al-Muminun:60)

66. Indeed, it (Hell) is an evil place to stay and an evil place to reside.

67. And when they spend, they are neither extravagant nor miser, but they keep balance between these two (extremes).

68. And those who don’t call other gods along with Allah, and they do not kill anyone whom Allah has made unlawful, except with just cause, nor do they indulge in illegal sexual activities – and whoever does this, shall cause himself a great torture.

69. And his punishment will be doubled on the Day of Resurrection and he will reside there disgraced.

70. Except those who repent, and believe, and do good deeds. So, Allah will change their sins into good deeds. And Allah is Very Forgiving, Most Merciful.
71. And whosoever repents (for his sins) and does good deeds (avoiding future sins), then, indeed, he repents towards Allah with true repentance.

72. And those who don’t give false testimony, and if they happen to pass by some evil activity, they pass by it in a dignified manner (totally ignoring it).

73. And those who when reminded by the revelations of their Creator, they don’t act as deaf and blind to them.

74. And those who say: “Our Creator! Grant us wives and children which are comfort of our eyes, and make us leaders of the pious persons.”

75. Those will be rewarded with the high places (in Paradise) because of their patience. They will receive Dua and Salaam (Peace be upon you) there.

76. Residing there forever. It is an excellent place to stay and an excellent place to reside.

77. [O Muhammad (ﷺ)!] Say (to the disbelievers): “My Creator does not care about your not calling (i.e. worshipping) Him. Since you have denied Him, hence (due to your denial) you will soon have an unavoidable torment.

26. Surah Ash-Shuara

(The Poets)

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

1. Ta-Sim-Mim (Allah Alone knows their meanings).

2. These are the Verses of very clear Book.

3. [O Muhammad (ﷺ)!] Perhaps you are going to kill yourself (with grief) if they
4. If We will, We could send down to them a sign from the heaven, (then they will have no choice), they would bend their necks with submission to this sign.

5. And whenever a new reminder comes to them from the Most Gracious (Allah), they turn away from it.

6. So they have, indeed, denied (the Quran). Hence they would come to know the result of what they used to mock at.

7. Don’t they observe that We have grown every kind of lovely pairs of vegetation in the land (which are very close to them)?

8. There is an (intellectual proof of Oneness of Allah) in this, yet most of them don’t believe.

9. And, indeed, your Creator is All-Mighty, the Most Merciful.

10. And (remember) when your Creator called Musa (ﷺ) (saying): “Go to the people who are wrong-doers.

11. “The people of Firaun.” Will they not fear (Allah) to become righteous?

12. Musa (ﷺ) said: “My Creator! Indeed, I fear that they will deny me (even before completing my speech).

13. “And I feel stress in my heart and my tongue does not express clearly. So send Harun (ﷺ) with me (because he is eloquent and his speech is clear).

14. “And they have a charge of crime against me. Hence I fear that they will kill me.”

15. (Allah) said: “No way. Both of you go with Our Signs. Indeed, We shall be with you listening.

16. “So both of you go to Firaun and say: ‘We
are the messengers of the Creator of the universe,

17. “So let the Children of Israel go with us.”

18. Firaun said [to Musa (ﷺ)]: “Did we not bring you up as a child among us? And did you not reside with us for many years of your life?

19. “And you did your deed, which you did (i.e. the crime of killing a man). And you are a very ungrateful person.”

20. (Musa (ﷺ)) said: “I did when I was from ignorant people (i.e. I did not intend to kill him and it was before I received this guidance).

21. “Hence I fled from you when I feared you. But my Creator bestowed upon me wisdom (and judgement) and made me one of the messengers.

22. (Regarding your favour of bringing me up) “And that favours about which you are reminding me (contrary to this) you have enslaved the Children of Israel. (You kill their males. You should be ashamed of it rather than reminding me of your favour. Allah saved me from you and brought me up).”

23. (Firaun) said: “And what is (the characteristic and virtue of) the Creator of the universe?”

24. [Musa (ﷺ)] said: “He is the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and all that is between them, if you are willing to believe.” (i.e. Allah can be described by His Virtues only).

25. Firaun said to those around him: “Do you hear what he says [i.e. Musa (ﷺ) is giving a very irrelevant answer]?
26. [Musa (ع) ] said: “He is your Creator and Creator of your forefathers!”

27. (Firaun) said: “Indeed. Your messenger who has been sent to you is a madman!”

28. (Musa (ع) ] said: “He is the Creator of the east and the west and all that is between them, if you have sense (then believe by this statement).”

29. (Firaun) said: “If you choose a god other than me, I will certainly put you among the prisoners.”

30. (Musa (ع) ] said: “Even if I bring you something obviously clear (and convincing)?”

31. (Firaun) said: “Then bring it forth, if you are from the truthful people.”

32. So Musa (ع) threw his stick, and it suddenly became a serpent.

33. And he brought out his hand (from under the armpit), and it was white shining for the on-lookers!

34. Firaun said to the chiefs around him: “Indeed, this is a well-versed magician.

35. “He wants to turn you out from your land by his magic. What is then your advice?”

36. They said: “Delay any action against him and his brother (for a while) and send the peons (i.e. your employees) to all the cities.

37. “To bring to you all the well-versed magicians.”

38. Hence the magicians were gathered at a promised time on an appointed day.

39. And it was announced to the people: “Are you also going to show up in this
assembly?

40. “So that we may follow the magicians (of Firaun), if they are the winners.”

41. So when the magicians arrived, they said to Firaun: “Will there be a reward for us if we are the winners?”

42. Firaun said: “Yes (you will get a big financial reward), and you will be my near (advisors).”

43. Musa ( عليه السلام) said to them: “Throw what you are going to throw!”

44. So they threw their ropes and their sticks and said: “By the might of Firaun, we are definitely going to dominate.”

45. Then Musa ( عليه السلام) threw his stick. So it suddenly swallowed up all that they falsely displayed.

46. So the magician fell down prostrate.

47. They said (openly): “We believe in the Creator of mankind, jinn and all that exists.

48. “The Creator of Musa ( عليه السلام) and Harun ( عليه السلام).”

49. Firaun said: “You have believed in him before I give you permission. Indeed, he is your chief leader who has taught you the magic. So you shall soon see the result of this. I will cut off your hands and your feet on the opposite sides, and I will crucify you all.”

50. They said: “It does not matter. We are, indeed, going to return to our Creator.

51. “Indeed, we do hope that our Creator will forgive our sins since we are the first to believe (in Allah, among this audience).”

52. (Firaun did not believe even after this
competition and did not free the Children of Israel. And We commanded Musa (ﷺ): “Leave (the place) by night with My slaves. You will, indeed, be followed.”

53. (Musa (ﷺ) left that place with the Children of Israel. The news spread around) so Firaun sent his peons to all the cities.

54. (Saying): “They (i.e. Children of Israel) are only a small group (as compared to us).

55. “And, indeed, they have enraged us.

56. “And we are well organized army and cautious about them.”

57. (Firaun and his army followed Musa (ﷺ) and his people, without knowing that they will never return to their home). (Allah said): “So, We drove them out from their gardens and springs.

58. “And treasures and respected places.”

59. Exactly this happened. And We made the Children of Israel to inherit all those things.

60. So Firaun and his army followed them at sunrise.

61. And when the two groups saw each other, the followers of Musa (ﷺ) said: “We will definitely be overtaken.”

62. Musa (ﷺ) said: “By no means. Indeed, my Creator is with me. He will soon guide me.”

63. So We revealed to Musa (ﷺ): “Strike the sea with your stick.” Then it (the sea water) split (into two parts) and each part (of that sea water) became like a big mountain.

64. And We brought others (Firaun’s
group) near to that site.

65. And We saved Musa ( pbh) and all those with him.

66. Then We drowned the others.

67. Indeed, in this is an (intellectual) proof (of the Oneness of Allah), yet most of them are not believers.

68. And, indeed, your Creator is the All-Mighty, the Most Merciful.

69. And recite to them the story of Ibrahim ( pbh).

70. When he said to his father and his people: “What (useless things) do you worship?”

71. They said: “We worship idols, and we are (sincerely) devoted to them.”

72. Ibrahim ( pbh) said: “Do they hear you when you call them?

73. “Or do they benefit you (if you worship them) or do they harm you (if you stop worshipping them)?”

74. They said: “We, in fact, found our forefathers doing this.”

75. Ibrahim ( pbh) said: “Did you ever ponder over that which you have been worshipping,

76. “You and your forefathers?”

77. “Indeed, they are enemies to me, (or I am fed up with those whom you worship) except (the worship of) the Creator of the universe.

78. “Who has created me (and all others), so He guides me (to my benefits).

79. “And it is He Who feeds me and gives me to drink.

80. “And when I get ill, it is He Who cures me.
81. “And it is He Who will cause me to die (at the appointed time), and then will bring me to life (again).
82. “And I hope, He will forgive me my faults on the Day of Resurrection.”
83. My Creator! Bestow upon me wisdom (i.e. Prophethood) and join me with the righteous people.
84. And make an honourable mention of me in the later generations (so that my reward is increased).
85. And make me among inheritors of the Paradise of Delight.
86. And (by making my father a believer) forgive him since he is from those who have gone astray.
87. And don’t disgrace me on the Day of resurrection.
88. (Then the details of that Day is given, so that Ibrahim (ﷺ)’s people listen to it and fear Allah). That Day when neither wealth nor children will benefit.
89. Except him who comes to Allah with a clean heart. (i.e. clean from disbelief and hypocrisy).
90. And Paradise will be brought very near to the pious people (so that they look at it and be happy since they will enter it).
91. And the disbelievers will have view of the Hell-Fire (so that they look at it and be sad since they will be thrown into it).
92. And it will be said to them: “Where are those that you used to worship
93. “Instead of Allah? Can they help (or save) you or (even) help (or save) themselves?”
94. Then they and all those who had gone
astray will be thrown into the Fire headlong.

95. And also the total army of Satan.

96. They will say while mutually quarrelling in it.

97. By Allah, we had truly gone astray.

98. When we held you (false gods) equal (in worship) with the Creator of the universe.

99. And none led us astray except the criminals.

100. Now we have no intercessors (who can save us).

101. Nor a close friend (to at least console or sympathise with us).

102. (How nice it would be) if we have a chance to go back (to the world), then we shall truly be among the believers! (So far is Ibrahim’s speech).

103. Indeed, in this is (an intellectual) proof (of the Oneness of Allah), yet most of them are not believers.

104. And, indeed, your Creator is the All-Mighty, the Most Merciful.

105. The people of Nuh (١٧) denied the messengers (since denying one messenger is the same as denying all the messengers).

106. When their brother Nuh (١٨) said to them: “Why don’t you fear Allah?”

107. “I am a trustworthy messenger to you (to convey to you the message of Allah without any changes).

108. “So fear Allah (i.e. follow His message) and obey me (i.e. follow the message according to my instructions. Thus Sunnah of every Prophet is important).

109. “And I don’t ask you for any reward (for
my services). My reward is only from the
Creator of the universe.

110. “Hence fear Allah and obey me.”

111. They said: “Shall we believe in you,
when the lowest class of people follow
you?”

112. Nuh (saw) said: “I have no knowledge of
what they (professionally) used to do?

113. “Their accountability is only with my
Creator, if you can understand this.

114. “And I am not going to drive away the
believers.

115. “Indeed, I am only a clear Warner.”

116. They said: “O Nuh (saw)! If you don’t
stop this (conversation), you will surely
be among those stoned (to death).”

117. Nuh (saw) said: “My Creator! Indeed, my
people have denied me.”

118. Therefore make a (practical) judgement
between me and them (i.e. destroy them)
and rescue me and the believers who are
with me.”

119. So We rescued him and those with him in
a laden ship.

120. Then We drowned the rest of the people.

121. Indeed, in this is (an intellectual) proof
(of the Oneness of Allah), yet most of
them are not believers.

122. And, indeed, your Creator is the
All-Mighty, the Most Merciful.

123. A’d (people) denied the messengers.

124. When their brother Hud (saw) said to
them: “Why don’t you fear (Allah)?

125. “Indeed, I am a trustworthy messenger to
you.

126. “So fear Allah and obey me.”
127. “And I don’t ask you for any reward, my reward is only from the Creator of the universe.

128. “Are you building monuments on every high place while it has no (practical) benefit?

129. “And are you building castles as if you will live there forever?

130. “And when you seize (somebody), you seize him as tyrants.

131. “So fear Allah, and obey me.

132. “And fear Allah who helped you with (good) things which you know.

133. “(That is) He has provided you cattle and children.

134. “And gardens and springs.

135. “Indeed, I fear for you the torment of a Great Day.”

136. They said: “It doesn’t matter if you preach us or not. (We are going to stick to our way of life).

137. “These are only false stories and customs of the ancient people (Tabari).

138. (You warn us about the punishment) “And we are not going to be punished.”

139. So they denied Hud (الحمد أتى) and We destroyed them. Indeed, in this is (an intellectual) proof (of the Oneness of Allah), yet most of them are not believers.

140. And, indeed, your Creator is the All-Mighty, the Most Merciful.

141. Thamud (people) denied the messengers.

142. When their brother Salih (السُّليهم) said to them: “Why don’t you fear (Allah)?

143. “Indeed, I am a trustworthy messenger to
144. “So fear Allah and obey me.

145. “And I don’t ask you for any reward (for my services). My reward is only from the Creator of the universe.

146. “Will you be left secure in these things which are here (in this world)?

147. “In gardens and springs.

148. “And green crops and palm trees with tender buds.

149. “And you hew out (grand) houses in the mountains (cheerfully).

150. “So fear Allah and obey me.

151. “And don’t follow the commands of those who transgress the limits.

152. “Who spread mischief in the land and don’t care to reform there.”

153. They said: “You are one of those who are bewitched!

154. “You are only a human being like us. Bring us a miracle if you are from the truthful.”

155. Salih (saw) said: “Here is a she-camel (its creation from the big rock is a proof of my Prophethood). She-camel will have her turn to drink water and you will have your turn to drink water on a fixed day.

156. And don’t touch her to harm, lest the torment of a great Day should seize you.”

157. So, they killed her and, became regretful (but regretting does not do any good after the signs of torment appear).

158. So the torment seized them. Indeed, in this there is (an intellectual) proof (of the Oneness of Allah), yet most of them are
not believers.

159. And, indeed, your Creator is the
All-Mighty, the Most Merciful.

160. The people of Lut (ٌ) denied the
messengers.

161. When their brother Lut (ٌ) said to
them: “Why don’t you fear (Allah)?

162. “Indeed, I am a trustworthy messenger to
you.

163. “So fear Allah, and obey me.

164. “And I don’t ask you for reward, my
reward is only from the Creator of the
universe.

165. “Do you go to the males of the universe
(to satisfy your sexual lust).

166. “And ignore those whom Allah has
created for you as your wives. In fact, you
are people who have transgressed (human
limits)!”

167. They said: “O Lut (ٌ)! If you don’t stop
(by our verbal warning), you will be
expelled (from this community).”

168. Lut (ٌ) said: “I strongly hate your (evil)
act (of sodomy). (How can I stop it?)

169. “O my Creator! Save me and my family
from what they do (and from the
punishment going to be inflicted on these
people).”

170. So We saved him and all his family,

171. Except an old woman (his wife), she was
among those who remained behind.

172. Then We destroyed the rest of them.

173. And We rained on them a (special) kind
of rain (of stones). So it was an evil rain
for those who had been warned!

174. Indeed, in this is (an intellectual) proof
(of the Oneness of Allah), yet most of them are not believers.

175. And, indeed, your Creator is the All-Mighty, the Most Merciful.

176. The residents of Al-Aikah (near Madyan) denied the messengers.

177. When Shuaib (ٖ) said to them: “Why don’t you fear (Allah)?”

178. “I am a trustworthy messenger to you.

179. “So fear Allah and obey me.

180. “And I don’t ask you for any reward, my reward is only from the Creator of the the universe.

181. “Give full measure, and don’t be one of those who give less (in weight and measure).

182. “And weigh with the true and straight balance.

183. “Don’t reduce the credit of the people and don’t go around spreading mischief in the land.

184. “And fear Him Who created you and the earlier generations.”

185. They said: “Indeed, you are one of those bewitched.

186. “And you are only a human being like us and we consider you a liar.

187. “So make some pieces of the heaven to fall on us, if you are of the truthful.

188. Shuaib (ٖ) said: “(I don’t bring the torment). My Creator is fully aware of what you do. (He will bring the torment as and when necessary).”
189. So they denied him. Hence the torment of the day of shadow seized them. Indeed, that was the torment of a Great (i.e. difficult) Day.

190. Indeed, in this is (an intellectual) proof (of the Oneness of Allah), yet most of them are not believers.

191. And, indeed, your Creator is All-Mighty, the Most Merciful.

192. And, indeed, this (the Quran) is a revelation from the Creator of the universe.

193. Which the trustworthy angel [Jibrael(الجبريل)] has brought down

194. [O Muhammad (محمده))! Upon your heart so that you may be (one) of the warners,

195. In clear Arabic language.

196. And, indeed, it (i.e. the Quran) is mentioned in the earlier Scriptures.

197. Is it not enough as a proof for them that the learned scholars (like Abdullah bin Salam) of the Children of Israel knew it (as true)?

198. And if We had revealed this Quran to any of the non-Arabs.

199. Then had he recited it to them, they would not have believed in it.

200. Thus We caused this (denial of the Quran) to enter the hearts of the criminals.

201. They will not believe in it until they see the painful torment.

1. Three kinds of torment struck them simultaneously while they were under the shadow of a cloud (i) flames of fire fell on them from the sky (ii) an earthquake – Surah Araf: 88 (iii) a loud cry – Surah Hud: 94.
202. It shall come to them all of a sudden while they are not aware of it.

203. So they will say: “Can our punishment be put off?”

204. Are they demanding to hasten Our torment?

205. Don’t you see that even if We let them enjoy worldly life for years,

206. Then the promised (torment) will strike them.

207. The comforts of life which they enjoyed will not do them any good. (Also Surah Al-Lail:11)

208. And We never destroyed a community without sending a warner there,

209. As a reminder, and We have never been unjust.

210. And the devils did not bring down this (the Quran).

211. It is not suitable (for the state of mind) of the devils (since the Quran provides guidance while the devils hinder the guidance to the Right Path), and they are not capable (of bringing the Quran).

212. Since they have been even banished from hearing it.

213. So don’t call other gods along with Allah, lest you be one of those who receive the punishment.

214. [O Muhammad (ﷺ)!] And warn your near relatives.

215. And be gracious and humble to the believers who follow you.

216. So if they disobey you, say: “I am fed up with your (evil) activities”
217. And put your trust in the All-Mighty, the Most Merciful,
218. Who see you when you stand up (alone for Tahajjud prayers).
219. And your movements among those who fall prostrate (i.e. Allah does see you when you pray alone or with others).
220. Indeed, He is the All-Hearer, the All-knower.
221. Shall I tell you upon whom the devils descend?
222. They descend on every liar and sinful person.
223. They spread the hearsay, and most of them are liars.
224. And as for the poets, only the misguided people follow them.
225. Don’t you see that the poets wander in every subject (right or wrong)?
226. And that they say what they don’t do.
227. Except those who believe and do good deeds, and engage themselves a lot in the remembrance of Allah, and take revenge after they have been wronged. And the wrong-doers will soon come to know to what direction they are tuned to (i.e. they will be tuned to Hell).

27. Surah An-Naml
(The Ants)

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

1. Ta-sin (Allah Alone knows their meanings). These are the Verse of the Quran and (it is) a Book that makes things clear.
2. (It is) a guidance (to the Right Path) and
glad tidings for the believers.

3. Those who perform Salat and pay the poor-due and they firmly believe in the Hereafter.

4. Indeed, those who don’t believe in the Hereafter, We have made their deeds attractive (and tempting) to them, so they wander about blindly.

5. They will have an evil torment (in this world), and they will be (big) losers in the Hereafter.

6. And [O Muhammad (ﷺ)!] you are being taught the Quran from the All-Wise, All-Knowing.

7. (Remember) when Musa (ﷺ) said to his family: “Indeed, I have seen a fire (which was actually a light), I will bring you some information from there, or I will bring you a burning brand, so that you may warm yourselves.”

8. So when he reached near (that fire or light), he heard a voice (from Allah): “Blessed is whoever is inside this light (i.e. Allah) and whoever is around the light (i.e. Musa (ﷺ)). (These are like greetings at the visitation). And Glorified is Allah, the Creator of the universe.

9. “O Musa (ﷺ)! Indeed, it is I, Allah, the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.

10. “And throw down your stick!” So when he saw it moving around as if it were a snake, he ran away towards his back and did not look back. (It was said): “Don’t fear (since We have granted you Prophethood). Indeed, Prophets don’t fear (from things which are the proof of their Prophethood) in front of Me.

11. “Except the one who has done wrong and
then has changed his evil activity to good deeds, then surely I am Very-Forgiving, Most-Merciful.

12. “And put your hand into your bosom (opening of the shirt near the neck), it will come out white shining without any (physical) defect. So go to Firaun and his people with nine miracles. Indeed, they are people who are disobedient to Allah.

13. So when Our absolutely clear miracles reached them, they said: “This is an obvious magic.”

14. And they denied these miracles unjustly and arrogantly although their hearts were convinced about them. Hence see what the (evil) end of the disbelievers was.

15. And, indeed, We gave knowledge to Dawud (سبحانه) and Sulaiman (سبحانه) and they both said: “All praise and thanks are due to Allah, Who has honoured us above many of His believing slaves!”

16. And Sulaiman (سبحانه) inherited (the knowledge of) Dawud (سبحانه). And Sulaiman (سبحانه) said (to thank Allah): “O mankind! We have been taught the language of birds and we have been given all necessary things (i.e. army, equipment, wealth etc to run a dynasty). This is indeed, an obvious grace (from Allah).”

17. And the armies of jinn and men, and birds were gathered before Sulaiman (سبحانه), each kind was put in its respective group (i.e. Regimentation of troops was done. It is a unique distinction of Sulaiman (سبحانه) that he ruled not only over men but also over jinn and birds etc).

18. Till when they came to the valley of the ants, one of the ants said: “O ants! Enter
your dwellings, lest Sulaiman (sws) and his army crush you, unknowingly.1

19. So Sulaiman (sws) smiled, then burst into laughter on listening to the ant. [Sulaiman (sws) recalled all the favours of Allah bestowed upon him] and he prayed: “O my Creator! Enable me to be grateful to You for Your favours which You have bestowed upon me and on my parents, and that I may do good deeds which will please You and count me, by Your Mercy, among Your righteous slaves.”

20. (One time the following incident took place). Sulaiman (sws) reviewed (his army of) the birds and said,” What is the matter that I don’t see the hoopoe? Or has he disappeared (without my permission)?

21. “I will surely punish him severely, or rather slaughter him, unless he brings me a clear proof.”

22. So hoopoe came after a short while and said: “I have come to you with news which you are not aware of, and I have brought to you true news of Saba (the queen).

23. “Indeed, I observed that a woman rules over them, she has been given all kinds of things (needed by any ruler on the earth), and she also has a great throne.

24. “I observed her and her people worshipping the sun instead of Allah, and Satan has made their deeds look attractive to them and has prevented them from (Allah’s) Way. So they have no guidance.”

1. Please note several points here (i) Even animals have an intellect though much less than mankind (ii) Sulaiman (sws) was a Prophet but did not have knowledge of the unseen. It is further supported by the story of hoopoe (iii) Even animals understand this important concept (of the unseen) (iii) Sulaiman (sws) could understand the speeches of animals apart from birds. Which was one of his miracles.
25. So they do not worship Allah Who brings out the hidden things (including rain and vegetation) from the heavens and the earth and He knows what you conceal and what you reveal.

26. Allah, none has the right to be worshipped but Him, the Creator of the Supreme Throne!

27. Sulaiman (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said: “We shall soon find out whether you speak the truth or you are one of the liars.

28. “You better go there with my letter and after delivering it to them, withdraw yourself from them and observe what (answer) they give.”

29. (Saba received the letter and she gathered her advisors) Saba (said to them): “O my advisors! An esteemed letter has been delivered to me.

30. (Stating) “Indeed, it is from Sulaiman (صلى الله عليه وسلم) and, indeed, it (starts): ‘In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

31. “That don’t be arrogant to me and come to me as Muslims.’” (This letter is very eloquent and is one of the miracles of the Quran).

32. Saba said: “O my advisors! Advise me in this matter. I don’t take any decision in any matter till you are present with me (and have expressed your opinion).”

33. They said: “We are mighty and very tough in war, but it is up to you to decide, hence think over what you would like to order.”

34. Saba said: “Indeed, whenever the kings enter a community (as enemies), they totally destroy it and disgrace the honourable people of that community and
thus they (always) do.

35. “And, indeed, I am going to send him a gift and then see with what the messengers return.”

36. So when they (the messengers) came to Sulaiman (as), he said: “Do you want to help me with your wealth? What Allah has granted me is far superior to what you have been given. (We will not accept this gift) Rather you rejoice with your gift!

37. “Go back to them. So we shall come to them with army which they cannot face, and we shall expel them from there with disgrace and they will be demeaned (and become our subjects).”

38. Sulaiman (as) said: “O chiefs! Who can bring me her throne before they come to me with obedience?”

39. A strong one from the jinn said: “I will bring it to you, before you rise from your place. And I am, indeed, strong and trustworthy for such work.”

40. One who had knowledge of the Scripture said: “I will bring it to you within the twinkling of an eye!” When Sulaiman (as) saw the throne placed before him, he said: “This is by the Grace of my Creator to test me whether I am grateful to Him or not. And whoever is grateful, it is for his good, and whoever is ungrateful (it is for his own loss). So indeed, my Creator is All-Rich (Free of all needs), Bountiful.”

41. Sulaiman (as) said: “Change (slightly) the appearance of this throne so that we may see whether she recognizes her throne or not.”

42. So when she came, it was said (to her): “Does your throne look like this?” She
said: “It looks as if it is the same throne.”

(Sulaiman (عليه السلام) said): “We were already given this knowledge before she came that she will surrender to us in obedience” — Tafseer Ibn-Kathir.

43. And the habit of worshipping others besides Allah had prevented her to be a believer, (she had this habit) since she lived among the disbelieving people.

44. (Here is a proof of Sulaiman’s (عليه السلام) superiority over Saba as far as this worldly life is concerned). It was said to Saba: “Enter this palace. When she saw it, she thought it was a pool or lake of water (in its courtyard). Hence she exposed her shanks (lower parts of legs by pulling up her dress). Sulaiman (عليه السلام) said: “It is merely a glass surface of this palace (with water underneath it).” Saba said: “My Creator! Indeed, I have wronged myself, and I submit myself along with Sulaiman (عليه السلام), to Allah, the Creator of the universe.”

45. And, indeed, We sent to Thamud (people) their brother Salih (عليه السلام), saying: “Worship Allah ( Alone). But they became two groups (believers and disbelievers) quarrelling with one another.”

46. Salih (عليه السلام) said: “O my people! Why are you hurrying for the evil (torment) before the goodness (from Allah’s Mercy)? Why don’t you seek forgiveness of Allah so that His Mercy be showered upon you?”

47. They said: “We consider you and those with you an ill omen for us.” Salih (عليه السلام) said: “Your ill omen is with Allah. In fact, you are a people who are being tested.”
48. And there were nine leaders in the city, who used to spread mischief in the land and would not reform.

49. (One time they plotted the following mischief) They said: “Swear by Allah that we shall attack Salih (عليه السلام) and his family during the night and, then, we shall surely say to his near relatives: ‘We did not witness the destruction of his family, and we are telling the truth.’”

50. So they hatched a plot and We made a plot too, while they were not aware of it (i.e. a big rock fell on them and they were completely destroyed – Ad-dur-al-Manthur).

51. Then see what the end of their plotting was. Indeed, We destroyed them (as described) and their nation altogether (since the community was the supporter of the mischief makers).

52. So, these are their houses absolutely ruined for the wrong they did. Indeed, there is a lesson in it for the people who have (beneficial) knowledge.

53. And We saved those who believed and used to fear (Allah).

54. And (remember) Lut (عليه السلام)! When he said to his people: “Do you engage in obscene activities while you understand (these are obscene activities)?

55. “Do you satisfy your sexual lust with men instead of women? In fact, you are absolutely foolish people.”

56. So his people had no other answer to give except that they said: “Expel the family of Lut (عليه السلام) from your town since they pretend to be clean and pure people.”