

11. HUD

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

¹ *Alif Lam Ra*

[This is] a Book, with verses which are fundamental [in nature], and then expounded in detail by One who is all wise and all aware. ² [It teaches] that you should worship none but God. I am sent to you from Him to warn you and to give you good tidings. ³ Seek forgiveness from your Lord; then turn towards Him [in repentance]. He will make generous provision for you for an appointed term and will bestow His grace on all who merit it! But if you turn away, then I fear for you the torment of a dreadful Day: ⁴ to God you shall all return; and He has power over all things.

⁵ See how they cover themselves up to hide [their thoughts] from Him. But when they cover themselves up with their garments, He knows what they hide and what they reveal.

He knows their innermost thoughts. ⁶ There is not a living creature on the earth but it is for God to provide its sustenance. He knows its dwelling and its [final] resting place. All this is recorded in a clear book.

⁷ Enthroned above the waters, it was He who created the heavens and the earth in six Days [periods], in order to test which of you is best in conduct. If you say, 'You will [all] be raised up after death,' those who deny the truth will say, 'This is just sheer sorcery!' ⁸ If We defer their punishment till an appointed time, they ask, 'What is holding it back?' On the Day when it overtakes them, there will be nothing to avert it from them; and what they used to mock at shall encompass them.

⁹ When We bestow upon man a measure of Our grace and then take it away from him, he yields to despair and becomes

ungrateful. ¹⁰ And if, after adversity, We let him taste good fortune he says, 'All my ills are gone.' He becomes exultant and boastful. ¹¹ Not so those who are patient and do good deeds. They shall have forgiveness and a great reward.

¹² You may [feel the inclination] to leave aside a part of what is revealed to you and you may be distressed because they say, 'Why has no treasure been sent down to him, why has no angel come with him?' But you are only to give warning. God is the guardian of all things. ¹³ If they say, 'He has invented it himself.' Say, 'If you are truthful, produce ten invented chapters like it, and call on whom you can besides God, to help you.' ¹⁴ But if they do not respond to you, then know that this [Quran] is sent down with God's knowledge and that there is no deity but Him. Will you then surrender yourselves to Him?

¹⁵ Those who desire the life of this world and all its finery shall be repaid in full in this life for

their deeds—nothing shall be denied them. ¹⁶ These are the people who, in the world to come, shall have nothing but Hellfire and all that they used to do shall be in vain.

¹⁷ Can they be compared to those who possess a clear proof from their Lord, followed up by a witness from Him, preceded by the Book of Moses, as a guide and a mercy? These people believe in it; whereas those groups that deny its truth are promised the Fire. Therefore, have no doubt about it. It is the truth from your Lord, but most people do not believe it.

¹⁸ Who does greater wrong than the one who fabricates a lie against God? Such people shall be brought before their Lord, and the witnesses will say, 'These are the ones who lied about their Lord.' Surely God's rejection is merited by such wrongdoers. ¹⁹ Such as those who turn others away from the path of God and seek to make it appear crooked: these are the ones who deny the Hereafter. ²⁰ They can never

frustrate God on earth, nor have they any protectors besides God. They will be subjected to double punishment, for they could neither hear nor see. ²¹ It is such as these who have ruined their souls, and that which they fabricated shall fail them. ²² In the Hereafter, it is they who shall be the greatest losers.

²³ Those who have believed and done good deeds and humbled themselves before their Lord are destined for Paradise, and they will live in it forever. ²⁴ These two groups are like the blind and the deaf as compared with those who can see and hear. Can the two be equal? Will you not then understand?^a

²⁵ We sent Noah to his people. He said, 'I have come to you with a clear warning: ²⁶ worship none but God. I fear lest punishment befall you on a woeful Day.' ²⁷ The leaders of his people, who refused to acknowledge the truth, said, 'We regard you only as a human being like ourselves. We do not see that anyone follows you but

the lowliest of us, those of immature judgement. We see no superior merit in you; in fact we believe you are a liar.'

²⁸ He said, 'O my people, tell me: if I have clear evidence from my Lord and He has favoured me with grace from Himself, which you have been unable to recognize, can we force it on you against your will? ²⁹ O my people, I do not ask you for any money for this; my reward comes only from God. I will not drive away those who believe; they shall surely meet their Lord. Yet I see that you are a people who act out of ignorance. ³⁰ My people, who would support me against God if I were to drive them off? Will you not take heed? ³¹ I do not say to you that I possess God's treasures, or that

^a Faith, humility and righteous deeds—all three are different aspects of the same reality. Faith is the conscious discovery of God and His perfect attributes. Humility is the state of the heart which necessarily develops in man as a result of the discovery of God.

I have knowledge of the unseen, or that I am an angel. Nor do I say concerning those upon whom you look with contempt, that God will not bestow any good upon them—God knows best what is in their hearts. If I did, I would certainly be one of the wrongdoers.’

³² ‘Noah,’ they replied, ‘you have argued with us, and argued to excess. Now bring down upon us what you threaten us with, if you speak the truth!’ ³³ He said, ‘It is God who will bring it down upon you, if He wishes, and you will not be able to escape. ³⁴ My advice will not benefit you, no matter how sincerely I want to advise you, if God lets you go astray. He is your Lord and you will all return to Him.’

³⁵ If they say, ‘He has invented it himself,’ say to them, ‘If I have indeed invented this myself, then may I be punished for my sin; I am innocent of the crimes that you commit.’

³⁶ God’s will was revealed to Noah, ‘No more of your people will believe in you than those

who already believe; do not grieve, therefore, over what they have been doing. ³⁷ Build the Ark under Our eyes and in accordance with Our revelation. Do not plead with Me concerning the evil-doers. They shall certainly be drowned.’ ³⁸ So he began to build the Ark, and whenever leaders of his people passed by, they scoffed at him. He said, ‘If you are scoffing at us, we shall scoff at you [and your ignorance], just as you scoff at us: ³⁹ you will soon come to know who will receive a humiliating punishment, and find unleashed against him an everlasting punishment.’

⁴⁰ When Our command came, and water gushed forth in torrents, We said to Noah, ‘Take into the Ark a pair from every species, and your own family—except those on whom the sentence has already been passed, and all the true believers.’ But only a few believed along with him. ⁴¹ Noah said, ‘Embark on it. In the name of God, it shall set sail and cast anchor. Truly, my

Lord is forgiving and merciful.’

⁴² The Ark sailed along with them through mountainous waves. Noah called out to his son who stood apart, ‘O my son! Embark with us and do not be among the deniers!’ ⁴³ He replied, ‘I shall seek refuge on a mountain, which will save me from the water.’ Noah cried, ‘Today there is no refuge for anyone from God’s command except for those to whom He shows mercy!’ Thereupon, a wave swept in between them, and Noah’s son was among those who were drowned. ⁴⁴ A voice cried out, ‘Earth, swallow up your waters. O sky, cease your rain.’ The waters receded. The command was fulfilled. The Ark came to rest on Mount Judi. It was said, ‘Away with the wrong-doing people.’

⁴⁵ Noah called out to his Lord, saying, ‘My Lord, my son was a part of my family. Your promise was surely true. You are the most just of all judges.’ ⁴⁶ God said, ‘Noah, he was not one of your family. For, indeed, he was

unrighteous in his conduct. Do not question Me about something of which you have no knowledge; I admonish you lest you become like an ignorant man.’ ⁴⁷ He said, ‘My Lord, I take refuge with You from asking You something of which I have no knowledge. If You do not forgive me and show me mercy, I shall be one of the losers.’

⁴⁸ God said, ‘Noah, go ashore in peace; Our blessings upon you and upon the people who are with you and upon some of the descendants of those who are with you. [As for the unrighteous] We shall grant provision for a time, then a grievous punishment from Us shall afflict them.’ ⁴⁹ These are tidings of the unseen that We reveal to you, [O Prophet], which you did not know before, nor did your people, so be patient: the future belongs to the God-fearing.

⁵⁰ To ‘Ad We sent their brother Hud. He said, ‘O my people, worship God alone; you have no god but Him. You do nothing but

fabricate lies. ⁵¹I ask of you nothing in return for this [Message]. My recompense is with Him who has created me. Why do you not use your reason? ⁵²My people, seek forgiveness of your Lord and turn to Him in repentance. He will send from the sky abundant rain upon you; He will add strength to your strength. Do not turn away from Him as evil-doers.’

⁵³They replied, ‘Hud, you have not brought us any clear evidence and we shall not forsake our deities merely at your behest, nor will we believe in you. ⁵⁴We can only say that some of our gods have stricken you with evil.’ He said, ‘I call God to witness, and you also bear witness, that I disown those which you associate with God. ⁵⁵So scheme against me, all of you together, and then grant me no respite. ⁵⁶I have put my trust in God, my Lord and your Lord. For there is no living creature which He does not hold by its forelock. My Lord is on the straight path.

⁵⁷‘If you turn away, I have

conveyed to you the message with which I was sent. My Lord will make another people your successors and you cannot harm Him in the least. For my Lord is guardian over all things.’ ⁵⁸When Our command came, We delivered Hud and those who believed with him by Our special mercy. We saved them from a severe punishment. ⁵⁹Such were the ‘Ad who denied the signs of their Lord and disobeyed His messengers and followed the bidding of every headstrong enemy of truth. ⁶⁰They were pursued by a curse in this world as they will be on the Day of Resurrection. Indeed, the ‘Ad denied their Lord. So away with the ‘Ad, the people of Hud!

⁶¹To the Thamud We sent their brother Salih. He said, ‘My people, worship God! You have no god but Him. It was He who brought you into being from the earth and settled you upon it and so ask His forgiveness. Turn to Him in repentance. My Lord is near and responsive.’ ⁶²They said, ‘O Salih! We had great

hopes in you. Do you forbid us to worship what our fathers worshipped? We are in grave doubt, amounting to suspicion, concerning that to which you call us.’⁶³ He said, ‘O my people, tell me: if I have clear evidence from my Lord, and He has granted His mercy, who then will support me against God, if I disobey Him? You would only make my loss greater.

⁶⁴ My people! This she-camel of God is a sign for you. So leave her alone to graze on God’s earth. And do her no harm, lest you should be instantly afflicted with a torment.’⁶⁵ But they hamstrung her. He [Salih] said, ‘Enjoy yourselves in your homes for three more days. This warning will not prove false.’⁶⁶ Then when Our command came by Our grace, We saved Salih and those who believed along with him from the disgrace of that day. Surely, your Lord is powerful and mighty.⁶⁷ The wrongdoers were overtaken by a dreadful blast and they lay dead in their homes,⁶⁸ as if they had never

dwelt there. The Thamud denied their Lord; cursed are the tribe of Thamud.

⁶⁹ Our messengers came to Abraham with good news and greeted him with, ‘Peace.’ He too said, ‘Peace be on you,’ and hastened to bring a roasted calf.⁷⁰ But when he saw that they made no move to eat, he found this strange and became afraid of them. They said, ‘Do not be afraid, for we have been sent to the people of Lot.’⁷¹ His wife, who was standing nearby, laughed when We gave her the good news of Isaac, and after Isaac, Jacob.⁷² She said, ‘Alas! Shall I bear a child in this old age, while my husband here is also old? This is indeed a strange thing!’⁷³ They said, ‘Are you astonished at God’s command? May the mercy of God and His blessings be upon you, O people of this house. Surely, He is praiseworthy and glorious.’

⁷⁴ When the fear had left Abraham, and the glad tidings had been conveyed to him, he began to plead with Us for Lot’s

people, ⁷⁵ for Abraham was forbearing, tender-hearted and oft-returning to God. ⁷⁶ We said, ‘Abraham, cease your pleading: the command of your Lord has gone forth. There shall fall upon them a punishment which none can avert!’

⁷⁷ When Our messengers came to Lot, he was uneasy on this account and felt powerless to protect them. He said, ‘This is a dreadful day.’ ⁷⁸ His people, who were used to committing foul deeds, came running to him. He said, ‘My people, here are my daughters. They are purer for you, [if you marry] so have some fear of God and do not disgrace me before my guests. Is there not a single right-minded man among you?’ ⁷⁹ They replied, ‘You know we have no need of your daughters. You know very well what we are seeking.’

⁸⁰ He said, ‘If only I had the strength to stop you or could take refuge in some powerful support!’ ⁸¹ They said, ‘Lot, we are your Lord’s messengers. By no means shall they reach you!

So depart with your family while it is yet night and let none of you look back. But your wife will suffer the fate that befalls the others. Their appointed time is the morning: is the morning not near?’ ⁸² When Our command came, We turned that town upside down and We rained upon it stones of clay, layer upon layer, ⁸³ marked for them by the decree of your Lord. The punishment of the unjust was not far off.

⁸⁴ To the people of Midian, We sent their brother Shu‘ayb. He said, ‘My people, worship God. You have no deity other than Him. Do not give short measure and short weight. I see you are prospering. I fear for you the punishment of a fateful Day. ⁸⁵ O my people, [always] give full measure and weight, in all fairness and do not defraud people by making short delivery, and do not spread corruption in the land. ⁸⁶ What God leaves with you is the best for you, if you are believers. I have not been appointed as your keeper.’

⁸⁷ They said, ‘Shu‘ayb, does

your prayer tell you that we should abandon what our forefathers worshipped and that we should stop disposing of our belongings as we please? You are indeed the only wise and rightly-guided man!

⁸⁸ [Shu‘ayb] said, ‘O my people! What do you think? If I have clear evidence from my Lord, and He has sustained me with fair sustenance from Himself [should I not guide you?]. I have no desire to do, out of opposition to you, what I am asking you not to do. I only want to reform you as far as I can. Nor can I succeed without God’s help. In Him I have put my trust and to Him I turn.⁸⁹ O my people, do not let your opposition to me bring upon you a fate similar to the peoples of Noah or Hud or Salih; nor is it long since the people of Lot were punished!⁹⁰ Seek forgiveness of your Lord and turn to Him in repentance. For my Lord is indeed merciful and loving.’

⁹¹ They replied, ‘Shu‘ayb, we do not understand much of what

you say. In fact, we see that you are powerless among us. Were it not for your clan, we would have stoned you, for you are not strong against us.’⁹² He said, ‘My people, is my tribe mightier to you than God? You put Him behind you, turning your backs on Him! Surely, my Lord encompasses all that you do.⁹³ My people, do what you will and so shall I. You will certainly come to know who will receive a punishment to disgrace him, and who is a liar. Wait on; I shall wait on with you.’

⁹⁴ When Our command came, We saved Shu‘ayb and those who believed with him as a mercy from Ourselves, while the blast overtook the wrongdoers, so that they lay dead in their homes,⁹⁵ as though they had never dwelt therein. Oh, away with the people of Midian, just as happened with the Thamud!

⁹⁶ We sent forth Moses with Our signs and with manifest authority,⁹⁷ to Pharaoh and his nobles. But they followed the command of Pharaoh and the

command of Pharaoh was not rightly directed.⁹⁸ He shall stand at the head of his people on the Day of Resurrection, and shall lead them into the Fire. Evil is the place to which they shall be led.⁹⁹ A curse followed them in this world, and shall follow them on the Day of Resurrection. What a foul gift to be given!

¹⁰⁰ We relate to you such accounts of earlier towns: some of them are still standing; while others have ceased to exist;¹⁰¹ We did not wrong them; they wronged themselves; the deities they called on besides God availed them nothing: when God's command came upon them, they only added to their ruin.

¹⁰² Such is the punishment of your Lord when He seizes the towns in the midst of their sins: His punishing grip is terrible and severe.¹⁰³ In that is a sign for him who fears the punishment of the Hereafter. That is a Day for which mankind shall be gathered together, a Day when all will be present.¹⁰⁴ We will only postpone it until a predetermined

time,¹⁰⁵ and when that Day arrives, no soul shall speak but by His leave. Among those some shall be damned, and others shall be blessed.

¹⁰⁶ The wretched ones will be in the Fire sighing and groaning,¹⁰⁷ remaining in it timelessly, for ever, as long as the heavens and earth endure, except as your Lord wills. Your Lord carries out whatever He wills.¹⁰⁸ Those who are blessed shall abide in the Garden; they will dwell therein as long as the heavens and the earth endure, except as your Lord wills. Such bounty shall be unending.¹⁰⁹ Have no doubt as to what they worship. They worship nothing but what their fathers worshipped before [them]. We shall certainly give them their share in full, without diminishing anything.

¹¹⁰ We certainly gave the Book to Moses, but differences arose about it: had it not been that a word had gone forth before from your Lord, Judgement would indeed have been passed on them then and there: yet they are in

grave doubt about it. ¹¹¹Your Lord will reward each one of them in full for their deeds. He is well-aware of all their actions.

¹¹²Therefore stand firm [in the straight path] as you are commanded, along with those who have turned to God with you, and do not exceed the bounds, for He sees everything you do. ¹¹³Do not incline toward those who do wrong, lest the Fire touch you. For [then] you would have none to protect you from God, and you will not be helped. ¹¹⁴Say your prayers morning and evening, and during parts of the night; surely good makes amends for evil. This is a reminder for people who pay heed. ¹¹⁵Be steadfast; for surely, God does not let the wages of the righteous be wasted.

¹¹⁶Why, then, were there not among the generations before you upright men who would speak out against the [spread of] corruption on earth—except for the few whom We saved? But the wrongdoers pursued their worldly pleasures and thus

became guilty. ¹¹⁷Your Lord would never unjustly destroy communities while their people were trying to reform.

¹¹⁸If your Lord had wished, He would have made mankind into one community. As it is, they will not cease to dispute,—¹¹⁹and to this end He has created them [all], except for those to whom your Lord has shown mercy. The word of your Lord shall be fulfilled, ‘I will fill Hell with jinn and men all together.’

¹²⁰We have told you the stories of the prophets to make your heart firm and in these accounts truth has come to you, with an exhortation and a reminder for the believers. ¹²¹Say to those who do not believe, you do things in your way and we are doing things in our way, ¹²²and wait, we too are waiting.’ ¹²³The knowledge of the secret of the heavens and the earth belongs to God alone, and to Him shall all affairs be referred. So worship Him and put your trust in Him alone. Your Lord is not unaware of what you do.

12. JOSEPH

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

¹ *Alif Lam Ra*

These are verses from the clear Book. ² We have sent down the Quran in Arabic, so that you may understand. ³ We recount to you the best of narratives in revealing this Quran to you, even though you were unaware of it before it came.

⁴ When Joseph told his father, ‘My father, I saw eleven stars, and the sun and moon: I saw them prostrate themselves before me,’ ⁵ he replied, ‘My son, do not relate your dream to your brothers, lest they plot evil against you—Satan is the sworn enemy of man. ⁶ You shall be chosen by your Lord and He will impart to you some understanding of the inner meaning of events. He will bestow the full measure of His blessings upon you and upon the House of Jacob—even as He formerly bestowed it in full

measure upon your forefathers, Abraham and Isaac. Truly, your Sustainer is all-knowing and wise!’

⁷ Surely, in Joseph and his brothers there are signs for the inquirers. ⁸ They said [to each other], ‘Surely Joseph and his brother [Benjamin] are dearer to our father than ourselves, although we are a band. Truly, our father is clearly mistaken.

⁹ Therefore, let us put Joseph to death or cast him away to some [far-off] land, so that our father’s attention should turn only to us, and you can thereafter become a righteous people.’ ¹⁰ One of them said, ‘Do not kill Joseph, but if you must do something, cast him into the bottom of a well; some of the travellers will pick him up.’

¹¹ They said to their father, ‘Why do you not trust us with Joseph? We are indeed his well-wishers. ¹² Send him with us tomorrow, so that he may play and enjoy himself. We will look

after him.’¹³ [Jacob] said, ‘It would indeed grieve me if you took him away with you, and I fear lest the wolf should devour him while you are off your guard.’¹⁴ They said, ‘Surely, if the wolf devoured him while we were a strong party, we should indeed be great losers.’

¹⁵ And so, when they went away with him, they decided to cast him into the dark depths of a well. Then We revealed to him Our will, ‘You shall [one day] tell them of this deed of theirs, when they do not realize who you are.’¹⁶ And at nightfall they came to their father, weeping.¹⁷ They said, ‘Father, we went off racing and left Joseph with our belongings, and the wolf devoured him. But you will not believe us, even though we are telling the truth.’¹⁸ And they showed him their brother’s shirt, stained with false blood. ‘No!’ he cried. ‘Your souls have tempted you to do something evil! But it is best to be patient: God alone can help me bear the loss you speak of.’

¹⁹ And there came a caravan of travellers and they sent their water-drawer to draw water from the well. He let down his bucket into the well and he exclaimed, ‘Oh, what a lucky find, here is a boy!’ They hid him like a piece of merchandise, but God knew well what they did.²⁰ Later they sold him for a paltry sum, a few pieces of silver [*dirhams*]: So little did they value him.

²¹ The Egyptian who bought him said to his wife, ‘Lodge him honourably, he may prove of benefit to us, or we may even adopt him as our son.’ Thus We established Joseph in the land, so that We might teach him the true meaning of events. God has power over all things. However, most people do not know this.²² And when he reached maturity, We bestowed on him right judgement and knowledge. Thus We reward those who do good.

²³ However, the woman in whose house he lived, wanted to seduce him. One day she bolted the doors and said, ‘Come!’ He replied, ‘God forbid! Truly [your

husband] is my master and has treated me honourably. Wrongdoers certainly never prosper.’²⁴ She started towards him, and he would have succumbed to her, if he had not seen a sign from his Lord—We did this in order to keep evil and indecency away from him, for he was truly one of Our chosen servants.

²⁵ They both ran to the door and, in the struggle, she tore his shirt at the back. They found her husband at the door. She cried, ‘Shall not the man who wished to violate your wife be thrown into prison or sternly punished?’²⁶ Joseph said, ‘It was she who sought to seduce me.’ One of her household testified, ‘If his shirt is torn at the front then she is speaking the truth, and he is lying.’²⁷ But if it is torn from behind then she is lying, and he speaks the truth.’²⁸ So when he saw his shirt torn from behind [her husband] said, ‘This is the guile of you women. Your guile is great indeed.’²⁹ Joseph, overlook this: but you [wife],

ask forgiveness for your sin, for you have done wrong.’

³⁰ Women in the town began to gossip, ‘The nobleman’s wife is trying to seduce her slave! Love for him consumes her heart! Indeed! We see her in manifest error.’³¹ When she heard of their intrigues, she sent for them and prepared a party for them. She gave a knife to each of them [to cut fruits, etc.] and then asked Joseph to appear before them. When the women saw him, they were greatly amazed [at his beauty], and they cut their hands, exclaiming, ‘God preserve us! This is no human being but a noble angel!’³² She said, ‘This is he about whom you have been blaming me! And, indeed, I did try to make him yield to me, but he was unyielding. Now, however, if he does not do as I bid him, he shall certainly be put in prison and be humiliated.’³³ Joseph said, ‘O my Lord! I would prefer prison to what these women are inviting me to do. And if You do not avert their guile from me, I may yield to

them and so become one of the ignorant.’³⁴ So his Lord answered him and warded off their guile. He is All Hearing and All Knowing.

³⁵ Yet, even after all the evidence they had seen, they thought it right to jail him for a time.³⁶ Two young men entered the prison along with him. One of them said, ‘I saw myself [in a dream] I was pressing wine.’ The other said, ‘I dreamed I was carrying bread on my head from which the birds were eating. Tell us their meaning; for we see that you are one who does good [to all].’

³⁷ Joseph said to them, ‘I shall inform you of the interpretation of your dreams before your meal is brought to you. This is a part of the knowledge that my Lord has taught me. I have renounced the religion of the people who do not believe in God and who deny the Hereafter.’³⁸ I follow the religion of my fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; and it is not for us to associate anyone with God as a partner. This is of God’s

grace upon us and upon mankind; even though most men are not grateful.³⁹ O my two fellow-prisoners! Are many diverse lords better, or God, the One, the Almighty?⁴⁰ All those you worship instead of Him are mere names you and your forefathers have invented, names for which God has sent down no authority: all power belongs to God alone, and He orders you to worship none but Him: this is the true faith, though most people do not realize it.

⁴¹ O my two fellow-prisoners, one of you will serve wine to his lord, the other of you will be crucified and birds will feed off his head. The matter about which you have been seeking my opinion has been so decreed.’

⁴² He said to the one he thought would be saved, ‘Mention me to your master.’ However Satan made him forget to mention it to his master, and so Joseph remained in prison for a number of years.

⁴³ The king said, ‘I saw [in a dream] seven fat cows which

seven lean ones were eating, also seven green ears of corn and seven others which were dry. Tell me the meaning of this vision, my nobles, if you can interpret visions.’⁴⁴ They said, ‘These are confusing dreams and we do not know the interpretation of such dreams.’⁴⁵ Then one of the two men who had been released and who, after a long time, remembered, said, ‘I shall tell you its interpretation; therefore, give me leave to go [to Joseph in prison].’

⁴⁶ ‘O truthful Joseph!’ he said, ‘Tell us the meaning of a dream in which seven fat cows are being eaten by seven lean ones, and there are seven green ears of corn and seven others which are dry, so that I may return to my people and inform them.’

⁴⁷ Joseph said, ‘You shall sow for seven consecutive years as usual, but leave in the ear the harvest that you reap, except for a little which you may eat.’⁴⁸ Then there will follow seven years of great hardship which will consume all but a little of what

you stored.⁴⁹ Then a year will come after that when people will have abundant rain and when once more they will press [wine and oil].’

⁵⁰ The king said, ‘Bring him to me.’ When the king’s messenger came to Joseph, he said, ‘Go back to your master and ask him about the women who cut their hands: my Lord knows well their guile.’⁵¹ The king asked the women, ‘What was the truth of the affair in which you tried to seduce Joseph?’ The women said, ‘God forbid! We know no evil of him.’ The wife of the nobleman said, ‘The truth has now come to light. It was I who tried to seduce him; he is surely an honest man.’

⁵² ‘From this,’ said Joseph, ‘[The nobleman] should know that I did not betray him in his absence, and that God does not guide the plotting of the treacherous.’⁵³ I am not trying to absolve myself: for man’s very soul incites him to evil unless my Lord bestows His mercy. Indeed, my Lord is forgiving and merciful.’

⁵⁴ The king said, 'Bring him to me. I will take him for my special service.' And when he had spoken to him, he said, 'From now on you will dwell with us, honoured and trusted.'⁵⁵ Joseph said, 'Place in my charge the storehouses of the land; for I am a good and knowledgeable custodian.'⁵⁶ Thus We caused Joseph to be established in a position of authority in the land. He could dwell therein wherever he pleased. We bestow Our mercy on whomever We please, and We do not allow the reward of the righteous to go to waste.⁵⁷ Yet the reward of the hereafter is best for those who believe and are mindful of God.

⁵⁸ Joseph's brothers arrived and presented themselves before him. He recognized them, but they did not know him.⁵⁹ When he had made provision for them, he told them, 'Bring me your brother on your father's side. Do you not see that I give you full measure and that I am the best of hosts?'⁶⁰ But if you do not bring him to me, you shall have no

grain from me, nor shall you ever approach me again.'⁶¹ They replied, 'We shall try to persuade his father to send him with us. We shall do [our utmost]!'

⁶² Joseph said to his servants, 'Put their money back into their saddlebags, so that they will recognize it when they return home to their family; thus they may come back.'⁶³ When they returned to their father, they said, 'Our father, any [further] measure of grain has been denied us, so send our brother [Benjamin] along with us, so that we may obtain our measure [of grain]; and, we shall guard him well.'⁶⁴ He replied, 'Am I to trust you with him as I once trusted you with his brother? But God is the best of guardians, the Most Merciful of all.'

⁶⁵ When they opened their packs, they discovered that their money had been returned to them. They said, 'Our father, what more do we desire than this? This money of ours has been returned to us, so we shall [again] buy food for our family and we shall

guard our brother, and we shall obtain an additional camel-load of grain. This [that we bring now] is a small quantity.’⁶⁶ He [Jacob] said, ‘I will never send him with you until you give me a solemn pledge, before God, that you will indeed bring him back to me, unless you yourselves are trapped [in a compulsive situation].’ And when they had given him their solemn pledge, [Jacob] said, ‘God shall be witness to all that we say.’

⁶⁷ ‘O my sons! Do not all of you enter [the city] by one gate; enter by separate gates. I cannot help you in any way against God; judgement is His alone. In Him I have put my trust. In Him let the faithful put their trust.’

⁶⁸ They entered [safely] as their father had told them. However, he had no power to guard them against God’s decree. It was only a wish in Jacob’s soul which he had thus fulfilled. He was possessed of knowledge which We had given him. But most people have no knowledge.

⁶⁹ When they presented

themselves before Joseph, he took his brother [Benjamin] aside. He said, ‘I am your brother, so do not feel distressed about whatever they have been doing.’

⁷⁰ And when he had given them their provisions, he placed a drinking-cup in his brother’s pack. Then a crier called out after them, ‘Men of the caravan! You have committed theft!’

⁷¹ They said, turning towards him, ‘What is it that you have lost?’⁷² ‘We miss the royal measuring bowl,’ he replied. ‘He who brings it shall have a camel-load of corn. I pledge my word for it.’⁷³ They said, ‘By God, you [ought to] know we have not come here to cause any trouble in the land. We are not thieves!’

⁷⁴ The Egyptians asked them, ‘And if we find that you are lying, what penalty shall we mete out to you?’⁷⁵ They replied, ‘The penalty should be that he in whose saddlebag it is found, should be held [as bondman] to atone for the crime. That is how we punish the wrongdoers.’⁷⁶ He [the herald] searched their bags before his brother’s and then

took out the cup from his brother's bag. In this way, We devised a plan on behalf of Joseph. He could not have detained his brother under the King's law, unless God so willed. We exalt whoever We please: but above those who have knowledge there is One all knowing.

⁷⁷ They said, 'If he is a thief, a brother of his had [also] committed theft before him.' But Joseph kept his secret and revealed nothing to them. He said [to himself], 'Your deed was worse. God best knows the things you speak of.' ⁷⁸ They said, 'O exalted one, he has a very aged father, take one of us in his place. We can see that you are a very good man.' ⁷⁹ He replied, 'God forbid that we should take anyone other than the person on whom we found our property. In that case, we would clearly be wrongdoers.'

⁸⁰ When they had lost all hope of [persuading] him, they withdrew, conferring among themselves. The eldest said, 'Do you not know that your father

took from you a pledge in God's name. You have already failed with regard to Joseph, so I shall never leave the land until my father permits me to, or God decides [things] for me. He is the best judge! ⁸¹ Return to your father and say, "Father, your son has committed a theft. We testify only to what we know. How could we guard against the unforeseen?" ⁸² Inquire of [the people of] the city where we lodged, and of the caravan with which we travelled. We are telling you the truth."

⁸³ Jacob said, 'No, but you have yourselves contrived a story. But it is best to be patient. God may well bring them all back to me [in the end]. For He is indeed full of knowledge and wisdom.' ⁸⁴ And he turned away from them, crying, 'Alas for Joseph!' His eyes went white with grief, and he was filled with sorrow. ⁸⁵ They said, 'By God, will you keep on remembering Joseph until your health is ruined, and you die?' ⁸⁶ He said 'I only complain of my anguish and my

sorrow to God. God has made known to me things that you do not know. ⁸⁷Go, my sons, and seek news of Joseph and his brother. Do not despair of God's mercy; none but those who deny the truth despair of God's mercy.'

⁸⁸When his brothers presented themselves before Joseph, they pleaded, 'Exalted one, distress has afflicted us and our family and we have brought only a paltry sum; but give us full measure. Be charitable to us. Truly, God rewards the charitable.'⁸⁹ He said, 'Are you aware of what you did to Joseph and his brother in ignorance?' ⁹⁰They exclaimed, 'Are you indeed Joseph?' He replied, 'I am Joseph and this is my brother. God has indeed been gracious to us. The truth is that God does not waste the reward of those who do good, who are righteous and steadfast.'

⁹¹[The brothers] said, 'By God! Most certainly God has raised you high above us, and we have indeed been guilty!' ⁹²He said, 'No blame [shall fall] on

you this day; may God forgive you! And He is the Most Merciful of those who show mercy. ⁹³Go with this shirt of mine and cast it upon my father's face. He will recover his sight; thereupon come [back] to me with all your family.'

⁹⁴When the caravan set out from Egypt, their father [in Canaan] said, 'You may think I am senile, but I certainly perceive the breath of Joseph.'⁹⁵ They said, 'By God, you still persist in your illusions!' ⁹⁶But when the bearer of the good news arrived and cast the shirt on Jacob's face, his eyesight returned and he said, 'Did I not tell you that I know from God what you do not know?' ⁹⁷They said, 'O our father! Ask forgiveness for our sins—we were truly in the wrong.'⁹⁸ He said, 'I shall certainly ask my Lord to forgive you. Surely, He is the Most Forgiving and Merciful.'

⁹⁹Then, when they presented themselves before Joseph, he drew his parents to him and said, 'Welcome to Egypt, in safety, if God wills!' ¹⁰⁰He helped his

parents to a couch and they all fell down on their knees before him. He said, 'My father, this is the interpretation of my dream. My Lord has made it come true! He was kind to me when He let me out of prison and brought you from the desert after Satan had brought about discord between me and my brethren. My Lord is the best planner in achieving what He will; He is All Knowing, and Truly Wise.'

¹⁰¹ Then Joseph prayed, 'My Lord, You have given me power and taught me the interpretation of dreams. Creator of the heavens and the earth, You are my patron in this world and the Hereafter! Make me die in submission to You and admit me among the righteous.'

¹⁰² These are tidings of the unseen that We reveal to you, [O Prophet], though you were not present with them when they plotted and agreed upon a plan.

¹⁰³ Yet most men will not become believers, no matter how eager you may be. ¹⁰⁴ You shall not ask them for any reward for

this. It is but a reminder for all mankind.

¹⁰⁵ And there are many signs in the heavens and the earth that they pass by and give no heed to—¹⁰⁶ and most of them, even when they profess belief in God, attribute partners to Him. ¹⁰⁷ Do they feel secure that the all-encompassing punishment of God will not come upon them, or that the Last Hour will not come upon them suddenly when they least expect it? ¹⁰⁸ Say, 'This is my way; on the basis of sure knowledge, I call on you to have faith in God, I and those who follow me. God is Holy; I am not one of those who associate partners with God.'

¹⁰⁹ All the messengers We sent before you [Muhammad] were human beings to whom We made revelations; they were men chosen from the people of their towns. Did they not travel across the earth and see the end of those before them? Those who are mindful of God prefer the life to come. Will you not then understand? ¹¹⁰ When the

messengers lost all hopes and thought that they had been told lies, Our help came to them: We saved whoever We pleased, but Our punishment will not be averted from the guilty.

¹¹¹ In their stories there is a

lesson for men of understanding. This [Quran] is no invented tale, but a confirmation of the previous [scripture] and a detailed explanation of all things as well as guidance and mercy to true believers.

13. THUNDER

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

¹ *Alif Lam Mim Ra*

These are the verses of the Book. What is sent down to you from your Lord is the truth, yet most men do not believe in it. ² It was God who raised the heavens with no visible supports, and then established Himself on the throne; He has regulated the sun and the moon, so that each will pursue its course for an appointed time; He ordains all things and makes plain His revelations, so that you may be certain of meeting your Lord; ³ it was He who spread out the earth and placed upon it mountains and

rivers, and fruits of every kind in male and female pairs. He drew the veil of night over the day. In all this, truly, there are signs for people who reflect.

⁴ On the earth are diverse tracts, adjoining one another: vineyards and cornfields and groves of palm, the single and the clustered. Their fruits are nourished by the same water; yet We make the taste of some excel that of others. In this also are signs for people who understand.

⁵ If anything can astonish you, you should surely be astonished at their asking, 'What? When we become dust, shall we be created

anew?’ These are the ones who deny their Lord: around their necks there shall be fetters. They are the inheritors of the Fire, and shall abide therein forever.

⁶ They demand that you hasten on the evil rather than the good, although there have been many examples of punishment before them—your Lord is full of forgiveness for mankind, despite their wrongdoings, but He is truly severe in punishment.

⁷ Those who deny the truth ask, ‘Why has no sign been sent down to him by His Lord?’ But you are only a warner; every people has its guide.

⁸ God knows what every female bears. He knows of every change within the womb. For everything He has a proper measure; ⁹ He is the knower of the unseen and the visible, the Great, the Most-Exalted. ¹⁰ It makes no difference whether you converse in secret or aloud, whether you hide under the cloak of night or walk about freely in the light of day.

¹¹ Each has guardian angels

before him and behind him, who watch him at God’s command. God does not change the condition of a people’s lot, unless they change what is in their hearts. But when God decrees punishment for a people, none can ward it off. Besides Him, they have no protector.

¹² It is He who shows you the lightning, inspiring fear and hope, and gathers up the heavy clouds; ¹³ and the thunder glorifies Him with His praise and the angels do so too in awe of Him, and He sends His thunderbolts to strike anyone He pleases, yet they dispute about God, who is inexorable in His power.

¹⁴ The only true appeal is to God alone; those they appeal to instead of Him will never respond to them in any way. They are like a man who stretches forth his hands toward the water, so that it may reach his mouth, but it never does. The calls of those who deny the truth are all in vain.

¹⁵ All who dwell in heavens

and on the earth submit to God alone, willingly or unwillingly, as do their shadows in the mornings and in the evenings.

¹⁶ Say, ‘Who is Lord of the heavens and the earth?’ Say, ‘God.’ Say, ‘Why do you take protectors other than Him, who can neither benefit nor harm even themselves?’ Say, ‘Are the blind and the seeing equal? Is darkness equal to the light? Or have they assigned partners to God who create as He creates, so that both creations appear to them alike?’ Say, ‘God is the Creator of all things. He is the One, the Almighty.’

¹⁷ He sends down water from the sky that fills riverbeds to overflowing, each according to its measure. The torrent carries along swelling foam, akin to what rises from smelted ore from which man makes ornaments and tools. God thus depicts truth and falsehood. The scum is cast away, but whatever is of use to man remains behind. God thus speaks in parables.

¹⁸ There will be the best of

rewards for those who respond to their Lord: while those who do not respond to Him—if they possessed all that is on earth and twice as much, they would surely offer it as ransom [on the Day of Judgement];—will have the worst reckoning and their goal is Hell: and how evil a resting-place!

¹⁹ Can one who knows that whatever has been sent down to you from your Lord is the Truth, be equal to one who is blind? It is only those who are endowed with insight who pay heed;²⁰ they who are true to their bond with God and never break their covenant;²¹ and those who join together what God has commanded to be joined, and fear their Lord and dread the harshness of the reckoning;²² those who are steadfast in seeking the favour of their Lord, and pray regularly and spend secretly and openly out of what We have provided them with, and ward off evil with good. Theirs shall be the final abode.²³ They shall enter the eternal

Gardens of Eden, along with the righteous from among their fathers, wives and descendants. From every gate the angels will come to them, saying, ²⁴ ‘Peace be upon you for all that you have steadfastly endured. How excellent is the final abode!’

²⁵ As for those who break the covenant of God, after having confirmed it, who cut asunder what God has commanded to be joined and spread corruption in the land, a curse shall be laid on them; they shall have an evil abode. ²⁶ God gives abundantly to whom He will and sparingly to whom He pleases—[those who deny the truth] rejoice in the life of this world; yet the life of this world is but a fleeting pleasure compared with the life to come.

²⁷ Those who deny the truth ask, ‘Why has no Sign been sent down to him by his Lord?’ Say, ‘God lets go astray those whom He wills and guides to Himself those who turn to Him, ²⁸ those who believe and whose hearts find comfort in the remembrance of God—surely in the

remembrance of God hearts can find comfort. ²⁹ ‘As for those who believe and do righteous deeds—blissful is their end.’

³⁰ Thus We have sent you to a people, before whom other peoples have passed away, so that you may recite to them what We have revealed to you. Yet they deny the Gracious God. Say, ‘He is my Lord; there is no god but He. In Him I put my trust and to Him I shall return.’

³¹ Even if there were a Quran by which mountains could be set in motion, by which the earth could be rent asunder, or by which the dead could be made to speak [they would not believe in it]. Surely all things are subject to God’s will. Are the faithful unaware that, had He pleased, God could have guided all mankind? Calamity shall not cease to strike those who deny the truth because of their misdeeds or to strike near their homes, until God’s promise be fulfilled. God will not fail to keep His promise. ³² Other messengers were also mocked

before you; but though I granted respite to those who denied the truth, at last I seized them, and how awful was My punishment.

³³ Is then He who watches over every soul and its actions [like any other]? Yet they ascribe partners to God. Say, ‘Name them! Or do you presume to inform Him of something on the earth of which He does not know? Or, is all this only your verbal assertion?’ Indeed, their devices seem fair to those who deny the truth, and they are kept back from the right path. There can be no guide for those whom God lets go astray. ³⁴ Punishment awaits them in the present life: but harsher is the punishment of the Hereafter—no one will defend them against God.

³⁵ Such is the Paradise which the righteous have been promised: it is watered by running streams: eternal is its fruit, and eternal is its shade. That is the recompense of those who are righteous, but the recompense of those who deny the truth is the Fire.

³⁶ Those to whom We sent the Scriptures rejoice in what has been revealed to you, while some factions deny parts of it. Say to them, ‘I have been commanded only to worship God and not to associate partners with Him: to Him I pray and to Him I shall return.’³⁷ Thus We have revealed it as a [clear] commandment in Arabic. If you followed their desires after all the knowledge which has come to you, you would have no protector or shield against God. ³⁸ We sent down messengers before you and gave them wives and children. Yet it was not possible for a messenger to bring a sign, save by the command of God. Every age has had its revelation. ³⁹ God abrogates or confirms what He pleases; with Him is the source of all commandments.

⁴⁰ Whether We show you part of what We have promised them or cause you to pass away [before that], your mission is only to give warning; it is for Us to do the reckoning. ⁴¹ Do they not see how We come to [their] land and

shrink its borders? God decides—no one can reverse His decision—and He is swift in reckoning. ⁴² Those before them did also devise plots; but in all things the master planning is God's. He knows what each soul does. Those who deny the truth shall soon know for whom is the final abode.

⁴³ Those who deny the truth say, 'You are not God's messenger.' Say, 'Sufficient is God as my witness between me and you, and those who have knowledge of the Book.'

14. ABRAHAM

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

¹ *Alif Lam Ra*

We have revealed to you this Book so that, by their Lord's command, you may lead men from darkness to the light: to the path of the Mighty, the Praiseworthy One, ² to God, who possesses whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on earth. Woe to those who deny the truth, for they shall be sternly punished!

³ Woe to those who love this life more than the Hereafter; who turn others away from the path of God and seek to make it crooked. They have gone far astray.

⁴ Each messenger We have sent has spoken in the language of his own people, so that he might make the message clear to them. But God lets go astray whom He will and guides whom He pleases. He is the Almighty, the All Wise.

⁵ We sent Moses with Our signs, saying, 'Lead your people out of the darkness into the light, and remind them of God's Days. In that there are signs for every patient, grateful person.'

⁶ Moses said to his people, 'Remember God's goodness to you when He delivered you from

Pharaoh's people who were treating you cruelly, putting your sons to death and sparing only your daughters. Surely that was a great trial from your Lord.

⁷ Remember also the time when your Lord declared, "If you are grateful, I will surely bestow more favours on you; but if you are ungrateful, then know that My punishment is severe indeed."⁸ Moses said, "Even if you should deny the truth, and all who dwell on earth together, God is self-sufficient, praiseworthy."

⁹ Has not news come to you concerning those who preceded you, such as Noah's people, and the 'Ad and Thamud, as well as those who came after them? Only God knows who they were. The messengers came to them with clear signs, but they put their hands to their mouths saying, 'We deny the message you have been sent with. We have grave doubts about what you are inviting us to do.'

¹⁰ Their messengers said, 'Is there any doubt about God, the

Originator of the heavens and earth? He calls you to Him in order to forgive you some of your offences and to relieve you for a specific period.' They said, 'You are only human beings like ourselves! You want to divert us from what our forefathers have been worshipping, so bring us some clear authority.'

¹¹ Their messengers replied, 'We are indeed mortals like yourselves. But God bestows His grace on such of His servants as He chooses. We cannot give you miracles, except by God's leave. In God let true believers put their trust—¹² and why should we not put our trust in God when He has already guided us to our paths? We will, surely, bear with patience all the harm you do us. So in God let those who trust put their trust.'

¹³ Those who deny the truth said to their messengers, 'We shall banish you from our land unless you return to our ways.' But their Lord inspired the messengers, saying, 'We shall destroy the evil-doers, ¹⁴ and

settle you on the land to succeed them. That is [in store] for anyone who is in awe of meeting Me, and who heeds My warnings.’

¹⁵ When they sought Our Judgement, every stubborn oppressor was frustrated.

¹⁶ Beyond him is Hell, and he shall drink putrid water; ¹⁷ he will sip and will not find it easy to swallow it. Death will approach him from every quarter, yet he will not die. More intense suffering will lie ahead of him.

¹⁸ The works of those who deny their Lord are like ashes which the wind scatters on a stormy day: they shall gain nothing from what they do. To act thus is to stray far into error.

¹⁹ Do you not see that God has created the heavens and the earth for a purpose? He can eliminate you if He wills and bring into being a new creation: ²⁰ that is no difficult thing for God.

²¹ They shall all appear before God and the weak will say to those who behaved proudly, ‘We were your followers. Can you protect us from God’s

punishment?’ They will reply, ‘Had God given us guidance, we would have guided you. It is all the same whether we are patient or impatient; there is no escape for us.’

²² When the Judgement has been passed, Satan will say to them, ‘God made you a true promise; I too made you promises, but I failed you. I had no authority over you, except that I called you and you responded to me. Do not now blame me, but blame yourselves! I cannot help you, nor can you help me. I reject your former act in associating me with God.’ The wrongdoers will have a painful punishment.

²³ But those who believed and did good deeds will be brought into Gardens with rivers flowing through them. They shall abide there forever by their Lord’s permission, and will be welcomed with the greeting, ‘Peace’!

²⁴ Do you not see how God compares a good word to a good tree? Its root is firm and its branches are in the sky, ²⁵ it

yields its fruit each season with its Lord's permission—God makes such comparisons for people, in order that they may take heed—²⁶ but an evil word is like an evil tree torn out of the earth; it has no foothold.

²⁷ God will strengthen the believers with His steadfast word, both in the present life and in the Hereafter. God lets the wrongdoers go astray. He does what He wills.

²⁸ Do you not see those who, in exchange for God's favour, offer only ingratitude and cause their people to descend into the Abode of Ruin? ²⁹ In Hell shall they burn; an evil place to stay.

³⁰ They have set up rivals to God to lead people away from His path. Say, 'Enjoy yourselves awhile: you will then proceed to the Fire.'

³¹ Tell My servants, those who are true believers, to keep up prayer and to give alms secretly and openly out of what We have given them, before the Day comes when there will be neither trading nor befriending.

³² It was God who created the heavens and the earth. He sends down water from the sky with which He brings forth fruits for your sustenance; He has made ships subservient to you, so that they may sail across the sea by His command; and has subjected the rivers to you. ³³ He has also subjected to you the sun and the moon, both steadfastly pursuing their courses. He has subjected to you the night as well as the day; ³⁴ He has given you all that you asked of Him; and if you try to reckon up God's favours, you will not be able to count them. Truly man is very unjust, very ungrateful.

³⁵ [Remember] when Abraham said, 'My Lord, make this a city of peace and help me and my children to keep away from worshipping idols. ³⁶ My Lord, they have led so many men astray! Anyone who follows me is with me, but if anyone turns against me, You are surely forgiving and merciful.

³⁷ O Lord! I have settled some of my offspring in an

uncultivable valley near Your Sacred House, Lord, so that they may say their prayers regularly. So, make people's hearts incline towards them and provide them with fruits so that they may be grateful.

³⁸ Lord, You have knowledge of all that we hide and all that we reveal: nothing in heaven or on earth is hidden from God.

³⁹ Praise be to God who has bestowed upon me, despite my old age, Ishmael and Isaac. Surely my Lord is the hearer of prayer.

⁴⁰ Lord, grant that I may keep up the prayer, and so may my offspring. My Lord, accept my prayer. ⁴¹ Forgive me, Lord, and forgive my parents and all the believers on the Day of Reckoning.'

⁴² Do not think God is unaware of the wrongdoers' actions. He only gives them respite till the Day on which all eyes will stare fixedly in horror. ⁴³ They will hurry on in fright, their heads lifted up, their gaze directed forward, their minds utterly void.

⁴⁴ Warn men of the Day when

the punishment will come upon them, and when the wrongdoers will say, 'Our Lord, grant us respite for a short while. We will respond to Your call and will follow the messengers.' [But God will answer], are you not those who swore that you would never suffer any decline? ⁴⁵ You lived in the dwellings of those who wronged themselves, and it was made clear to you how We had dealt with them and We gave you many examples. ⁴⁶ They hatched their plots; but these plots were all within God's knowledge. Though their plots were such as to shake the mountains, God will bring their plots to nothing.

⁴⁷ Never think that God will fail in His promise to His messengers. God is mighty and capable of retribution. ⁴⁸ On the Day when the earth shall be changed into another earth, as shall be the heavens, they will all appear before God, the One, the Most Supreme. ⁴⁹ On that Day you shall see the guilty bound in chains, ⁵⁰ their garments shall be

of pitch and the fire shall envelop Let them take warning
 their faces. ⁵¹ God will requite from it and know that He
 each soul according to its deeds. is but one God. Let those
 Swift is God's reckoning. possessed of understanding may
⁵² This is a message for mankind. take heed.

15. THE ROCKY TRACT

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

¹ *Alif Lam Ra*

These are the verses of a clear Book, the Quran. ² A time will surely come when those who are bent on denying the truth will wish that they had surrendered themselves to God, ³ so leave them to eat and enjoy themselves and let them be beguiled by vain hopes; for soon they will realise [the truth]. ⁴ We have never destroyed a township without a definite decree having been issued; ⁵ no people can forestall their doom, nor can they delay it.

⁶ They say, 'You to whom the Reminder [the Quran] has been sent down, you are surely possessed. ⁷ Why do you not bring down the angels upon us,

if you are truthful?' ⁸ But We send down the angels only to bring justice and then they will not be reprieved.

⁹ It is We who have sent down the Reminder and We will, most surely, safeguard it.

¹⁰ We sent messengers before you to the previous peoples, ¹¹ but there was never a messenger who came to them but they mocked him: ¹² thus We cause this [habit of mocking] to enter into the hearts of the sinful. ¹³ They will not believe in it, though they have before them the example of former peoples, ¹⁴ and even if We opened to them a door from heaven, and they began ascending through it, ¹⁵ they would still say, 'Our eyes

have been dazzled. We are bewitched.’

¹⁶ We have placed constellations in heaven and have beautified it for beholders,¹⁷ and We have guarded it from every accursed devil:¹⁸ but if anyone eavesdrops, he is pursued by a bright flaming fire.

¹⁹ We have spread out the earth, and set upon it firm mountains and caused everything to grow in due proportion.²⁰ We have provided therein a means of livelihood for you and for all those creatures for whom you do not provide.

²¹ There is not a thing but its storehouses are with Us. But We only send down each thing in an appropriate measure:²² We let loose fertilizing winds, and bring water from the sky for you to drink; and you could not have stored it up for yourselves.

²³ Truly, it is We who bring to life and We who cause death and We are the inheritor of all things.²⁴ We know those who lived before you and those who will come after you.²⁵ It is your Lord

who will gather them. He is all wise and all knowing.

²⁶ We created man out of dry clay, from moulded mud,²⁷ and the jinn We had created before from flaming fire.

²⁸ Your Lord said to the angels, ‘I am about to bring into being a man wrought from mud.’²⁹ When I have formed him and breathed My spirit into him, fall down in prostration before him,³⁰ then the angels all prostrated themselves together.³¹ But Satan did not; he refused to join those who prostrated themselves.

³² God asked him, ‘What is the matter with you, that you are not among those who have prostrated themselves?’³³ He replied, ‘I am not one to prostrate myself to a man whom You have created out of a clay of moulded mud.’

³⁴ God said, ‘Then get out of here; for you are accursed,³⁵ and the curse shall be on you till the Day of Judgement!’³⁶ Satan said, ‘O my Lord! Grant me respite till the Day of Resurrection.’³⁷ He said, ‘You are granted respite³⁸ till that Appointed Day.’

³⁹ He said, ‘My Lord, since You have let me go astray. I shall make the path of error seem alluring to them on the earth and shall mislead them all, ⁴⁰ except for Your chosen servants.’

⁴¹ God said, ‘This is the path which leads straight to Me. ⁴² Surely, you shall have no power over My true servants, except those misguided ones who choose to follow you. ⁴³ Surely, Hell is the place to which they are destined, ⁴⁴ it has seven gates: and each gate has a portion of them allotted to it.

⁴⁵ Truly, the God-fearing shall dwell amid gardens and fountains—⁴⁶ “Enter therein in peace and security!”—⁴⁷ We shall cleanse their hearts of all traces of ill-will; they will be like brethren seated on couches facing one another. ⁴⁸ They will not be affected by any weariness there, and they will never be made to leave.’ ⁴⁹ Tell My servants that I alone am the Forgiving, the Merciful One, ⁵⁰ and that My punishment is a painful punishment.

⁵¹ Tell them about Abraham’s guests: ⁵² when they came to him they greeted him with: ‘Peace.’ He said, ‘We feel afraid of you.’ ⁵³ They said, ‘Do not be afraid. We come to you with good news. You shall have a son who shall be endowed with great knowledge.’ ⁵⁴ He said, ‘Do you bring me such news despite my old age? What kind of good news are you bringing me?’ ⁵⁵ They said, ‘We have, indeed, given you glad tidings in truth; do not therefore despair.’ ⁵⁶ He said, ‘Who but the misguided despair of the mercy of their Lord?’

⁵⁷ Then he asked, ‘What then is your business, O messengers?’ ⁵⁸ They said, ‘We have been sent forth to a guilty people.’ ⁵⁹ Except for Lot’s household, all of whom we shall rescue, ⁶⁰ except his wife. We have decreed that she will be among those who remain behind [and will be lost].

⁶¹ When the messengers came to Lot and his family, ⁶² he said, ‘You are strangers [to me].’ ⁶³ They said, ‘No, but we bring

you news about what they disputed,⁶⁴ and we have come to you with the truth, and surely we are truthful,⁶⁵ so leave with your family some time in the latter part of the night, and walk behind them. Let none of you look back. Go where you are commanded.’

⁶⁶ We communicated to him Our decree that the guilty ones would be destroyed by the morning.

⁶⁷ The people of the town came along, revelling,⁶⁸ and he told them, ‘These are my guests, so do not disgrace me.’⁶⁹ Fear God and do not shame me.’⁷⁰ They said, ‘Did we not forbid you to extend hospitality to strangers?’

⁷¹ He said, ‘Here are my daughters, if you must act in this way.’

⁷² By your life, they wandered on in their wild intoxication⁷³ and thereupon the blast [of Our punishment] overtook them at sunrise.⁷⁴ We turned the town upside down and rained upon them stones of clay.⁷⁵ There are certainly signs in that for those who can learn a lesson—⁷⁶ it is still there on the highway—

⁷⁷ surely in this there is a sign for those who believe.

⁷⁸ The people of the Wood were also surely wrongdoers.

⁷⁹ So We took vengeance on them. Both are still there on the highway, plain for all to see.

⁸⁰ The people of al-Hijr also rejected Our messengers:⁸¹ We gave them Our signs, but they turned away from them.⁸² They carved out dwellings in the mountains, and lived in security—⁸³ the blast overtook them early one morning.⁸⁴ All that they had acquired was of no avail to them.

⁸⁵ We have created the heavens and the earth and all that is between the two in accordance with the requirements of truth and wisdom. The Hour is surely coming. So overlook [their faults] with gracious forgiveness.

⁸⁶ Surely your Lord is the All Knowing Creator!

⁸⁷ We have given you the seven oft-recited verses and the great Quran.⁸⁸ Do not strain your eyes towards the worldly benefits We have bestowed on some of them,

nor grieve on their account. Lower your wing of mercy for the believers ⁸⁹ and say, ‘I am, indeed, a plain warner,’ ⁹⁰ such as We send down for those who are divisive, ⁹¹ and who have broken the Scripture into fragments—⁹² by your Lord, We shall question them all ⁹³ about whatever they had been doing!

⁹⁴ Proclaim openly what you are commanded, and avoid the

polytheists. ⁹⁵ We will, surely, suffice you against those who mock, ⁹⁶ who set up another god with God, but they shall soon learn. ⁹⁷ We do indeed know how your heart is distressed at what they say. ⁹⁸ But glorify your Lord with His praise, and prostrate yourself: ⁹⁹ and worship your Lord until what is certain [death] comes to you.

16. BEES

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

¹ The decree of God is at hand, so do not seek to hasten it. Holy is He, and exalted far above what they associate with Him.

² He sends down the angels with revelations by His command to whoever of His servants He pleases, saying, ‘Warn mankind that there is no god save Me, so fear Me.’ ³ He created the heavens and the earth for a true purpose. He is exalted above anything they associate with Him.

⁴ He created man out of a

[mere] drop of sperm: yet he shows himself to be openly contentious! ⁵ He has created cattle for you: from them you derive food and clothing and numerous other benefits; ⁶ how pleasant they look when you bring them home in the evenings and when you take them out to pasture in the mornings. ⁷ They carry your loads to places which you could otherwise not reach without great hardship—surely, your Lord is compassionate and

merciful—⁸ He has created horses, mules and donkeys, so that you may ride them, and also so that they may be put on show, and He creates other things beyond your knowledge.

⁹ The straight way leads to God and there are ways which deviate from the right course. If He so wished, He would guide you all.

¹⁰ It is He who sends down water from the sky. From it you drink and with it trees grow on which you pasture your cattle.

¹¹ And with it He grows for you corn, and the olive and the date-palm and the grape, and all kinds of fruits. Surely, in that is a sign for a people who reflect.

¹² He has made the night and the day and the sun and the moon subservient to you; and all the stars are subservient to His command. Surely in this there are signs for men of understanding.

¹³ On the earth He has fashioned for you objects of various hues: there is certainly a sign in that for people who pay heed.

¹⁴ It is He who subjected to

you the sea, so that you may eat its fresh seafood and bring forth from it ornaments to wear. You see the ships cleaving through it. All this, so that you may seek His bounty and feel grateful.

¹⁵ He has set up on the earth firm mountains, lest it shake under you, and rivers and tracks, so that you may find your way, ¹⁶ and He has set up other landmarks. By these and by the stars people set their course.

¹⁷ Is He, then, who creates like him who does not create? Will you not, then, take heed? ¹⁸ If you tried to count God's blessings, you would never be able to number them. God is ever forgiving and most merciful.

¹⁹ God knows all that you conceal and all that you reveal.

²⁰ Those you call on besides God cannot create anything. They are themselves created. ²¹ They are dead, not living; nor do they know when they will be raised to life. ²² Your God is the One God. As for those who do not believe in the Hereafter, their hearts refuse to admit the truth and they

are arrogant.²³ God surely knows what they conceal and what they reveal. He does not love the arrogant.

²⁴ When they are asked, ‘What is it that your Lord has sent down?’ they say, ‘Stories of the ancients.’²⁵ Let them bear all their own burdens on Resurrection Day as well as some of the burdens of those whom they lead astray without any knowledge. How evil the load with which they shall be burdened!

²⁶ Those who went before them also plotted. But God struck at the foundations of their building, and the roof fell down upon them from above. The punishment came upon them from where they did not expect.

²⁷ Then on the Day of Resurrection He will disgrace them, and say, ‘Where are My partners for whose sake you opposed [My guidance]?’ Those given knowledge will say, ‘This Day humiliation and affliction will surely befall those who have been denying the truth.’

²⁸ Those whose lives the angels take while they are wronging their own souls will offer submission saying, ‘We were not doing anything evil!’ ‘Indeed!’ the angels will reply, ‘God is aware of what you have been doing,’²⁹ so enter the gates of Hell. There you shall abide forever.’ Evil indeed is the abode of the arrogant.

³⁰ When those who fear God are asked, ‘What has your Lord sent down?’ Their reply is, ‘Goodness!’ The reward of those who do good works in this world is good, but the abode of the Hereafter is even better. The home of the righteous is indeed excellent.³¹ They will enter Gardens of Eternity, where rivers will flow at their feet. There they will have all that they wish for. Thus God rewards the righteous,³² those whose lives the angels take in a state of purity, saying [to them], ‘Peace be on you; enter the Garden, because of [the good] which you did [in the world].’

³³ Are they waiting for the

angels to come to them, or the fulfillment of your Lord's will? Those who went before them did the same. God did not wrong them; rather they wronged themselves. ³⁴ The evil results of their deeds overtook them, and that which they used to mock at encompassed them.

³⁵ Those who associate [others with God] say, 'If God had so willed we would not have worshipped anything besides Him, neither we nor our fathers, nor would we have forbidden anything without His sanction.' So did those who went before them. The duty of the messengers is only to convey the message clearly.

³⁶ We raised among every people a messenger who enjoined, 'Worship God alone and shun the evil one.' Then among them were some whom God guided and among them were others who became deserving of ruin. So travel across the earth and observe what was the end of those who rejected the

messengers. ³⁷ Though you [Prophet] may be eager to guide them, God does not guide those whom He lets go astray, [because of their refusal to give a positive response to the truth]. They will have no supporters.

³⁸ They swear their strongest oaths by God that God will never raise the dead to life—nonetheless, it is a promise truly binding on Him, even though most people do not realize it—³⁹ this is so that He may make clear to them what they have differed about and so that those who are bent on denying the truth may realize that they were lying. ⁴⁰ When We will something to happen, all that We say is, 'Be!' and it is.

⁴¹ As for those who, after persecution, migrated from their homes for the cause of God, We will provide them with a goodly abode in this life: but truly the reward of the Hereafter will be greater, if they only knew it. ⁴² They are the ones who are steadfast and put their trust in their Lord.

⁴³ Before you also the messengers We sent were but [mortal] men to whom We vouchsafed revelation. Ask the People of the Book, if you do not know. ⁴⁴ [We sent them] with clear signs and scriptures. We have sent down the Reminder to you, to enable you to make clear to mankind what has been sent down to them, so that they may reflect upon it.

⁴⁵ Do those who devise evil plans feel secure that God will not make them sink into the land, or that a punishment will not come upon them from where they least expect? ⁴⁶ Or that He will not seize them suddenly in their daily activities and they will not be able to frustrate Him? ⁴⁷ Or that He will not punish them by giving them a fright? Indeed, your Lord is kind and merciful.

⁴⁸ Have they not observed the things God has created, casting their shadows right and left, prostrating themselves before God in all humility? ⁴⁹ Everything in the heavens and

all the creatures on the earth prostrate themselves before God, as do the angels, and they do not behave proudly: ⁵⁰ they fear their Lord above them, and do what they are commanded.

⁵¹ God says, 'Do not take two gods. He is only One God. So fear Me alone.' ⁵² To Him belongs whatsoever is in the heavens and on the earth, and obedience is due to Him alone. Will you then fear anyone other than God?

⁵³ Whatever blessing you have is from God, and to Him you turn for help when distress befalls you, ⁵⁴ yet no sooner does He relieve your distress than some among you set up other partners besides their Lord, ⁵⁵ showing no gratitude for what We have given them. Enjoy yourselves awhile; but soon you will know! ⁵⁶ They even appoint a share of what We have provided for them [to false gods] they know nothing of. You shall surely be questioned about the lies you have been fabricating.

⁵⁷ They assign daughters to God—glory be to Him!—but for

themselves [sons] that they desire to have. ⁵⁸ When the birth of a girl is announced to any of them, his face darkens and he is filled with gloom. ⁵⁹ In his shame he hides himself away from his people, because of the bad news he has been given. Should he keep her and feel disgraced or bury her in the dust? How ill they judge! ⁶⁰ The attribute of evil applies to those who do not believe in the Hereafter, while to God applies the highest attribute, for He is Mighty, the Wise.

⁶¹ If God were to take people to task for their wrongdoing, He would not leave even one living creature on earth, but He gives them respite till an appointed time: when their time comes they cannot delay it for an hour, nor can they bring it forward.

⁶² They attribute to God what they themselves dislike and their tongues utter the lie that all good things are for themselves. Without doubt, the Fire awaits them, and they shall be hastened on into it.

⁶³ By God! We have sent

messengers before you to other nations. But Satan made their [foul] deeds seem fair to them and today he is their patron. They shall have a painful punishment. ⁶⁴ We have only sent down the Book to you so that you can make clear to them that concerning which they differ, and as a guidance and a mercy to people who believe.

⁶⁵ God sends down water from the sky and with it revives the earth when it is dead. There is truly a sign in this for people who listen.

⁶⁶ There is also a lesson for you in cattle. From the contents of their bellies, from between the dung and blood, We give you pure milk to drink, pleasant for those who drink it. ⁶⁷ From the fruit of the date palm and the grapes you derive intoxicants as well as wholesome food. Surely in this there is a sign for men of understanding.

⁶⁸ Your Lord inspired the bee, saying, 'Make your homes in the mountains, in the trees, and also in the structures which men erect.

⁶⁹Then feed on every kind of fruit, and follow the trodden paths of your Lord.' From its belly comes a drink with different colours which provides healing for mankind. Indeed, in this there is a sign for people who give thought.

⁷⁰God created you; then He shall cause you to die: and some shall have their lives prolonged to abject old age, ceasing to know anything after once having had knowledge. God is all knowing and powerful.

⁷¹God has given some of you more provision than others. Those who have been given more are unwilling to pass their provision to the servants they possess so that they become their equals. Will they then deny the favour of God?

⁷²God has given you wives from among yourselves, and given you children and grandchildren from your wives, and provided wholesome things for you. Will they then believe in falsehood and deny God's favours? ⁷³They worship, instead

of God, things that have no control over their provision from the heavens or the earth in any way, nor do they have any power [to do so]. ⁷⁴Do not compare God with anyone. God has knowledge, but you have not.

⁷⁵God makes a comparison between an owned slave possessing no power over anything, and someone to whom We have given plentiful provision, who gives out from it privately and openly. Are they equal? Praise be to God! But most people do not know it.

⁷⁶God makes another comparison between two men, one of whom is dumb and cannot do a thing, and is a burden on his master. Wherever he sends him on an errand, he brings [him] no good. Is he equal to someone who commands justice and is on a straight path?

⁷⁷God alone has knowledge of the hidden reality of the heavens and the earth; and the coming of the Hour [of Judgement] is like the twinkling of an eye, or even quicker.

Surely God has full power over everything.

⁷⁸ God brought you forth from the wombs of your mothers while you knew nothing, and gave you hearing and sight and hearts, so that you might be grateful.

⁷⁹ Do they not see the birds held poised in the vault of heaven? Nothing holds them up except God. Truly, there are signs in this for those who believe.

⁸⁰ God has made your houses places of rest for you and made tents for you out of cattle hides, which are light for you to carry, both when you are travelling and when you are staying in one place. He provides for you from the wool and fur and hair of cattle, household goods and articles for use for a time.

⁸¹ God has granted you shade out of what He has created, places of shelter in the mountains, garments with which to protect yourselves from the heat and coats of mail to shield you in battle. Thus He completes His favour to you, so that you may submit wholly to Him. ⁸² But

if they turn away, you are responsible only for conveying the message clearly. ⁸³ They recognize the favour of God, yet they deny it; and most of them are ungrateful.

⁸⁴ On the Day when We raise up a witness from every people, those who were bent on denying the truth will not be permitted to put forward excuses, or to make amends. ⁸⁵ When the wrongdoers face their punishment, it shall not be lightened for them, nor shall they be granted any reprieve.

⁸⁶ When those who associate partners with God see their associate gods, they will say, 'Our Lord, these are our associate gods whom we used to call upon instead of You.' But they will throw back their words at them, [saying], 'Indeed you are liars,' ⁸⁷ and on that Day they will offer total submission to God: and all that they used to devise will fail them. ⁸⁸ Upon all who were bent on denying the truth and who turned others away from the path of God, We will heap punishment

upon punishment, in return for all the corruption that they brought about.

⁸⁹The Day will come when We raise up in every people a witness against them from amongst themselves, and We will bring you as a witness against these people. We have sent down the Book to you to make everything clear, a guidance, and a mercy, and glad tidings for those who submit to God.

⁹⁰God commands justice, kindness and giving their [due to] near relatives, and He forbids all shameful deeds, and injustice and transgression. He admonishes you so that you may take heed!

⁹¹Fulfill the covenant of God when you have made one; and do not break your pledges after their confirmation. Indeed you have made God your surety; for God knows all that you do. ⁹²Do not, like the woman who unravels her yarn after its strands have been firmly spun, use your oaths as a means of deceiving one another, just because one

community could become bigger than another. God is only testing you by means of this. On the Day of Resurrection He will make it clear to you what you differed about.

⁹³Had God pleased, He would have united you in one community; but He lets go astray whoever He will, and guides whoever He will, and you will surely be called upon to account for all your actions.

⁹⁴Do not use your oaths to deceive each other lest any foot should slip after being firmly placed and lest you should taste the penalty for having hindered others from the path of God, for then you will have a terrible punishment. ⁹⁵Do not sell God's covenant for a paltry price. What is with God is better for you if you only knew.

⁹⁶What you have shall pass away, but what is with God is lasting. We will certainly give those who are patient their reward according to the best of their actions. ⁹⁷To whoever does good deeds, man or woman, and is a

believer, We shall assuredly give a good life; and We will bestow upon them their reward according to the best of their works.

⁹⁸ When you read the Quran, seek God's protection from Satan, the rejected one. ⁹⁹ Surely, he has no power over those who believe and put their trust in their Lord; ¹⁰⁰ he has power only over those who are willing to follow him and associate others with God.

¹⁰¹ When We substitute one revelation for another—and God knows best what He reveals—they say, 'You are but a fabricator.' Indeed, most of them have no knowledge. ¹⁰² Say, 'The Holy Spirit has brought it down as truth from your Lord, so that He may strengthen those who believe, and also as guidance and as good tidings for those who submit.'

¹⁰³ Indeed, We know what they say, 'It is only a human being who imparts [all] this to him!' But the tongue of him to whom they point is foreign, whereas this is plain Arabic speech.

¹⁰⁴ God will not guide those who will not believe in the signs of God; and theirs will be a painful punishment. ¹⁰⁵ Only those fabricate lies concerning God who do not believe in the signs of God, and these are the liars.

¹⁰⁶ As for one who denies God after he has believed, with the exception of one who is forced to do it, while his heart rests securely in faith, but one who opens his heart to a denial of truth shall incur the wrath of God; such as these will have a terrible punishment. ¹⁰⁷ This is because they prefer the life of this world to the Hereafter and because God does not guide those who deny the truth. ¹⁰⁸ These are the ones upon whose hearts and hearing and sight God has set a seal. It is they who are heedless, ¹⁰⁹ and in the life to come, they will surely be the losers.

¹¹⁰ Surely, your Lord will be forgiving and merciful towards those who migrated after persecution and strove hard for the cause of God and remained steadfast. ¹¹¹ On the Day each

soul will come pleading for itself, and every soul will be repaid according to whatever it has done, and they will not be wronged.

¹¹² God makes an example of a town that was secure and at ease, with provisions coming to it abundantly from every quarter. Then it showed ingratitude for God's blessings and God afflicted it with hunger and fear because of what they did. ¹¹³ There came to them a messenger from among themselves, but they rejected him as false, so punishment overtook them, as they were wrongdoers.

¹¹⁴ So eat the lawful and good things which God has provided for you, and be thankful for the blessing of God, if it is Him you worship. ¹¹⁵ He has forbidden you only carrion, blood and the flesh of swine; also any [flesh] consecrated in the name of any but God. But if anyone is forced by dire necessity, not desiring it or exceeding his immediate need, God is forgiving and merciful towards him.

¹¹⁶ Do not falsely declare, 'This is lawful, and this is forbidden,' so as to invent a lie against God. Surely, those who invent a lie against God do not prosper—¹¹⁷ their enjoyment of this life is brief, and they shall have a painful punishment.

¹¹⁸ We forbade the Jews those things We told you about before. We did not wrong them; rather they wronged themselves. ¹¹⁹ Surely, your Lord is most forgiving and ever merciful towards those who do evil in ignorance and truly repent thereafter and make amends.

¹²⁰ Abraham was a community in himself devoted to God and true in faith, He was not one of the polytheists; ¹²¹ he was thankful for His blessings. God chose him and guided him to a straight path. ¹²² We gave him blessings in this world, and in the Hereafter he shall be among the righteous. ¹²³ Then We revealed Our will to you [O Muhammad], saying, 'Follow the religion of Abraham, the upright in faith; he was not one of the polytheists.'

¹²⁴ The Sabbath was only enjoined on those who differed about it. Your Lord will judge between them on the Day of Resurrection regarding the things about which they differed.

¹²⁵ Call to the way of your Lord with wisdom and fair exhortation and reason with them in a way that is best. Your Lord knows best those who have strayed away from His path, and He

knows best those who are rightly guided.

¹²⁶ If you want to retaliate, retaliate to the same degree as the injury done to you. But if you are patient, it is better to be so.

¹²⁷ Endure with patience; truly, your patience is possible only with the help of God. Do not grieve for them, or feel distressed because of their plottings, ¹²⁸ for God is with those who are righteous and those who do good.

17. THE NIGHT JOURNEY

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

¹ Holy is He who took His servant by night from the sacred place of worship [at Makkah] to the remote house of worship [at Jerusalem]—the precincts of which We have blessed, so that We might show him some of Our signs. Surely, it is He who is All Hearing, and All Seeing.

² We gave Moses the Book and made it a guide for the Children of Israel saying, ‘Do

not take anyone besides Me as a guardian, ³ you who are the descendants of those whom We carried in the Ark with Noah. He was a truly thankful servant.’

⁴ We forewarned the Children of Israel in the Scripture, ‘Twice you shall commit evil in the land. You shall become great transgressors.’ ⁵ When the time of the first of these warnings came, We sent against you