

what is revealed to me. Indeed I fear, if I should disobey my Lord, the punishment of a tremendous Day."

16. Say, "If Allāh had willed, I would not have recited it to you, nor would He have made it known to you, for I had remained among you a lifetime before it.⁴⁷⁴ Then will you not reason?"
17. So who is more unjust than he who invents a lie about Allāh or denies His signs? Indeed, the criminals will not succeed.
18. And they worship other than Allāh that which neither harms them nor benefits them, and they say, "These are our intercessors with Allāh." Say, "Do you inform Allāh of something He does not know in the heavens or on the earth?" Exalted is He and high above what they associate with Him.
19. And mankind was not but one community [united in religion], but [then] they differed. And if not for a word⁴⁷⁵ that preceded from your Lord, it would have been judged between them [immediately] concerning that over which they differ.
20. And they say, "Why is a sign not sent down to him from his Lord?" So say, "The unseen is only for Allāh [to administer], so wait; indeed, I am with you among those who wait."
21. And when We give the people a taste of mercy after adversity has touched them, at once they conspire against Our verses. Say, "Allāh is swifter in strategy." Indeed, Our messengers [i.e., angels] record that which you conspire.
22. It is He who enables you to travel on land and sea until, when you are in ships and they sail with them⁴⁷⁶ by a good wind and they rejoice therein, there comes a storm wind and the waves come upon them from everywhere and they assume that they are surrounded [i.e., doomed], supplicating Allāh, sincere to

⁴⁷⁴The Prophet (ﷺ) lived among his people forty years before receiving any revelation.

⁴⁷⁵Allāh's decree to allow time on earth for His creation or not to punish anyone before evidence has come to him.

⁴⁷⁶The change in pronoun from the second to third person shows that the following description applies specifically to the disbelievers.

Him in religion, "If You should save us from this, we will surely be among the thankful."

23. But when He saves them, at once they commit injustice⁴⁷⁷ upon the earth without right. O mankind, your injustice is only against yourselves, [being merely] the enjoyment of worldly life. Then to Us is your return, and We will inform you of what you used to do.
24. The example of [this] worldly life is but like rain which We have sent down from the sky that the plants of the earth absorb – [those] from which men and livestock eat – until, when the earth has taken on its adornment and is beautified and its people suppose that they have capability over it, there comes to it Our command by night or by day, and We make it as a harvest,⁴⁷⁸ as if it had not flourished yesterday. Thus do We explain in detail the signs for a people who give thought.
25. And Allāh invites to the Home of Peace [i.e., Paradise] and guides whom He wills to a straight path.
26. For them who have done good is the best [reward] – and extra.⁴⁷⁹ No darkness will cover their faces, nor humiliation. Those are companions of Paradise; they will abide therein eternally.
27. But they who have earned [blame for] evil doings – the recompense of an evil deed is its equivalent, and humiliation will cover them. They will have from Allāh no protector. It will be as if their faces are covered with pieces of the night – so dark [are they]. Those are the companions of the Fire; they will abide therein eternally.
28. And [mention, O Muḥammad], the Day We will gather them all together – then We will say to those who associated others with Allāh, "[Remain in] your place, you and your 'partners.'"⁴⁸⁰

⁴⁷⁷By oppression and disobedience or by invoking others besides Allāh.

⁴⁷⁸Its vegetation having been cut down or uprooted, i.e., utterly destroyed.

⁴⁷⁹In addition to the pleasures of Paradise, they will be able to see Allāh (*subḥānahu wa ta'ālā*), as reported in an authentic *ḥadīth* narrated by Muslim.

⁴⁸⁰Those they had associated with Allāh.