

63. He said, "O my people, have you considered: if I should be upon clear evidence from my Lord and He has given me mercy from Himself, who would protect me from Allāh if I disobeyed Him? So you would not increase me except in loss.
64. And O my people, this is the she-camel of Allāh – [she is] to you a sign. So let her feed upon Allāh's earth and do not touch her with harm, or you will be taken by an impending punishment."
65. But they hamstrung her, so he said, "Enjoy yourselves in your homes for three days. That is a promise not to be denied [i.e., unfailing]."
66. So when Our command came, We saved Ṣāliḥ and those who believed with him, by mercy from Us, and [saved them] from the disgrace of that day.<sup>515</sup> Indeed, it is your Lord who is the Powerful, the Exalted in Might.
67. And the shriek<sup>516</sup> seized those who had wronged, and they became within their homes [corpses] fallen prone
68. As if they had never prospered therein. Unquestionably, Thamūd denied their Lord; then, away with Thamūd.
69. And certainly did Our messengers [i.e., angels] come to Abraham with good tidings; they said, "Peace." He said, "Peace," and did not delay in bringing [them] a roasted calf.
70. But when he saw their hands not reaching for it, he distrusted them and felt from them apprehension.<sup>517</sup> They said, "Fear not. We have been sent to the people of Lot."
71. And his wife was standing, and she smiled.<sup>518</sup> Then We gave her good tidings of Isaac and after Isaac, Jacob.
72. She said, "Woe to me!<sup>519</sup> Shall I give birth while I am an old

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<sup>515</sup>The day of Thamūd's destruction.

<sup>516</sup>A piercing cry or blast from the sky.

<sup>517</sup>Traditionally, if a guest refused to eat, it meant that he harbored ill will toward the host or intended him harm.

<sup>518</sup>In pleasure at the news of the forthcoming punishment of the evil people who denied Prophet Lot (upon him be peace).

<sup>519</sup>An expression of surprise and amazement.

- woman and this, my husband, is an old man? Indeed, this is an amazing thing!"
73. They said, "Are you amazed at the decree of Allāh? May the mercy of Allāh and His blessings be upon you, people of the house. Indeed, He is Praiseworthy and Honorable."
74. And when the fright had left Abraham and the good tidings had reached him, he began to argue [i.e., plead] with Us<sup>520</sup> concerning the people of Lot.
75. Indeed, Abraham was forbearing, grieving<sup>521</sup> and [frequently] returning [to Allāh].
76. [The angels said], "O Abraham, give up this [plea]. Indeed, the command of your Lord has come, and indeed, there will reach them a punishment that cannot be repelled."
77. And when Our messengers, [the angels], came to Lot, he was anguished for them and felt for them great discomfort<sup>522</sup> and said, "This is a trying day."
78. And his people came hastening to him, and before [this] they had been doing evil deeds.<sup>523</sup> He said, "O my people, these are my daughters;<sup>524</sup> they are purer for you. So fear Allāh and do not disgrace me concerning my guests. Is there not among you a man of reason?"
79. They said, "You have already known that we have not concerning your daughters [i.e., women] any claim [i.e., desire], and indeed, you know what we want."
80. He said, "If only I had against you some power or could take refuge in a strong support."
81. They [the angels] said, "O Lot, indeed we are messengers of your Lord; [therefore], they will never reach you. So set out

520. i.e., with Our angels.

521. i.e., sighing or moaning during supplication out of grief for people and fear of Allāh.

522. Prophet Lot feared for the safety and honor of his guests.

523. Referring to their practice of sodomy and homosexual rape of males.

524. i.e., the women of his community who were available for marriage.