

8. And Moses said, "If you should disbelieve, you and whoever is on the earth entirely – indeed, Allāh is Free of need and Praiseworthy."
9. Has there not reached you the news of those before you – the people of Noah and 'Aad and Thamūd and those after them? No one knows them [i.e., their number] but Allāh. Their messengers brought them clear proofs, but they returned their hands to their mouths⁵⁹⁸ and said, "Indeed, we disbelieve in that with which you have been sent, and indeed we are, about that to which you invite us, in disquieting doubt."
10. Their messengers said, "Can there be doubt about Allāh, Creator of the heavens and earth? He invites you that He may forgive you of your sins, and He delays you [i.e., your death] for a specified term." They said, "You are not but men like us who wish to avert us from what our fathers were worshipping. So bring us a clear authority [i.e., evidence]."
11. Their messengers said to them, "We are only men like you, but Allāh confers favor upon whom He wills of His servants. It has never been for us to bring you evidence except by permission of Allāh. And upon Allāh let the believers rely."
12. And why should we not rely upon Allāh while He has guided us to our [good] ways. And we will surely be patient against whatever harm you should cause us. And upon Allāh let those who would rely [indeed] rely."
13. And those who disbelieved said to their messengers, "We will surely drive you out of our land, or you must return to our religion." So their Lord inspired to them, "We will surely destroy the wrongdoers."
14. And We will surely cause you to dwell in the land after them. That is for he who fears My position⁵⁹⁹ and fears My threat."

⁵⁹⁸Several explanations have been given as to the meaning. Based upon the conclusion of the verse, Ibn Katheer preferred that this was a gesture of denial and rejection.

⁵⁹⁹An alternative meaning is "the standing [for account] before Me."

15. And they requested decision [i.e., victory from Allāh], and disappointed, [therefore], was every obstinate tyrant.
16. Before him⁶⁰⁰ is Hell, and he will be given a drink of purulent water.⁶⁰¹
17. He will gulp it but will hardly [be able to] swallow it. And death will come to him from everywhere, but he is not to die. And before him is a massive punishment.
18. The example of those who disbelieve in their Lord is [that] their deeds are like ashes which the wind blows forcefully on a stormy day; they are unable [to keep] from what they earned a [single] thing. That is what is extreme error.
19. Have you not seen [i.e., considered] that Allāh created the heavens and the earth in truth? If He wills, He can do away with you and produce a new creation.
20. And that is not difficult for Allāh.
21. And they will come out [for judgement] before Allāh all together, and the weak will say to those who were arrogant, "Indeed, we were your followers, so can you avail us anything against the punishment of Allāh?" They will say, "If Allāh had guided us, we would have guided you. It is all the same for us whether we show intolerance or are patient: there is for us no place of escape."
22. And Satan will say when the matter has been concluded, "Indeed, Allāh had promised you the promise of truth. And I promised you, but I betrayed you. But I had no authority over you except that I invited you, and you responded to me. So do not blame me; but blame yourselves. I cannot be called to your aid, nor can you be called to my aid. Indeed, I deny your association of me [with Allāh] before.⁶⁰² Indeed, for the wrongdoers is a painful punishment."

⁶⁰⁰Literally, "after him [in time]," meaning ahead of him.

⁶⁰¹That which oozes from the skins of Hell's inhabitants.

⁶⁰²By your obedience to me instead of Him during life on earth.