

their ears against the thunderclaps in dread of death. But Allāh is encompassing¹⁴ of the disbelievers.

20. The lightning almost snatches away their sight. Every time it lights [the way] for them, they walk therein; but when darkness comes over them, they stand [still]. And if Allāh had willed, He could have taken away their hearing and their sight. Indeed, Allāh is over all things competent.
21. O mankind, worship your Lord, who created you and those before you, that you may become righteous –
22. [He] who made for you the earth a bed [spread out] and the sky a ceiling and sent down from the sky, rain and brought forth thereby fruits as provision for you. So do not attribute to Allāh equals while you know [that there is nothing similar to Him].
23. And if you are in doubt about what We have sent down [i.e., the Qur'ān] upon Our Servant [i.e., Prophet Muḥammad (ﷺ)], then produce a sūrah the like thereof and call upon your witnesses [i.e., supporters] other than Allāh, if you should be truthful.
24. But if you do not – and you will never be able to – then fear the Fire, whose fuel is men and stones, prepared for the disbelievers.
25. And give good tidings to those who believe and do righteous deeds that they will have gardens [in Paradise] beneath which rivers flow. Whenever they are provided with a provision of fruit therefrom, they will say, "This is what we were provided

¹⁴Allāh states in the Qur'ān that He has certain attributes such as hearing, sight, hands, face, mercy, anger, coming, encompassing, being above the Throne, etc. Yet, He has disassociated Himself from the limitations of human attributes or human imagination. Correct Islāmic belief requires faith in the existence of these attributes as Allāh has described them without applying to them any allegorical meanings or attempting to explain how a certain quality could be (while this is known only to Allāh) and without comparing them to creation or denying that He (*subḥānahu wa ta'ālā*) would have such a quality. His attributes are befitting to Him alone, and "***There is nothing like unto Him.***" (42:11)

- with before." And it is given to them in likeness. And they will have therein purified spouses, and they will abide therein eternally.
26. Indeed, Allāh is not timid to present an example – that of a mosquito or what is smaller¹⁵ than it. And those who have believed know that it is the truth from their Lord. But as for those who disbelieve, they say, "What did Allāh intend by this as an example?" He misleads many thereby and guides many thereby. And He misleads not except the defiantly disobedient,
 27. Who break the covenant of Allāh after contracting it and sever that which Allāh has ordered to be joined and cause corruption on earth. It is those who are the losers.
 28. How can you disbelieve in Allāh when you were lifeless and He brought you to life; then He will cause you to die, then He will bring you [back] to life, and then to Him you will be returned.
 29. It is He who created for you all of that which is on the earth. Then He directed Himself¹⁶ to the heaven, [His being above all creation], and made them seven heavens, and He is Knowing of all things.
 30. And [mention, O Muḥammad], when your Lord said to the angels, "Indeed, I will make upon the earth a successive authority."¹⁷ They said, "Will You place upon it one who causes corruption therein and sheds blood, while we declare Your praise and sanctify You?" He [Allāh] said, "Indeed, I know that which you do not know."
 31. And He taught Adam the names – all of them. Then He showed them to the angels and said, "Inform Me of the names of these, if you are truthful."
 32. They said, "Exalted are You; we have no knowledge except

¹⁵Literally, "above it," i.e., greater in smallness.

¹⁶See footnote to 2:19.

¹⁷*Khalīfah*: successor, or generations of man, one following another.