

11. And how many a city which was unjust<sup>814</sup> have We shattered and produced after it another people.
12. And when they [i.e., its inhabitants] perceived Our punishment, at once they fled from it.
13. [Some angels said], "Do not flee but return to where you were given luxury and to your homes – perhaps you will be questioned."<sup>815</sup>
14. They said, "O woe to us! Indeed, we were wrongdoers."
15. And that declaration of theirs did not cease until We made them [as] a harvest [mowed down], extinguished [like a fire].
16. And We did not create the heaven and earth and that between them in play.
17. Had We intended to take a diversion,<sup>816</sup> We could have taken it from [what is] with Us – if [indeed] We were to do so.
18. Rather, We dash the truth upon falsehood, and it destroys it,<sup>817</sup> and thereupon it departs. And for you is destruction from that which you describe.<sup>818</sup>
19. To Him belongs whoever is in the heavens and the earth. And those near Him [i.e., the angels] are not prevented by arrogance from His worship, nor do they tire.
20. They exalt [Him] night and day [and] do not slacken.
21. Or have they [i.e., men] taken for themselves gods from the earth who resurrect [the dead]?
22. Had there been within them [i.e., the heavens and earth] gods besides Allāh, they both would have been ruined. So exalted is Allāh, Lord of the Throne, above what they describe.
23. He is not questioned about what He does, but they will be questioned.

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<sup>814</sup>i.e., its inhabitants persisting in wrongdoing.

<sup>815</sup>About what happened to you. This is said to them in sarcasm and ridicule.

<sup>816</sup>Such as a wife or a child.

<sup>817</sup>Literally, "strikes its brain," disabling or killing it.

<sup>818</sup>Of untruth concerning Allāh, particularly here, the claim that He has a son or other "partner" in divinity.

24. Or have they taken gods besides Him? Say, [O Muḥammad], "Produce your proof. This [Qur'ān] is the message for those with me and the message of those before me."<sup>819</sup> But most of them do not know the truth, so they are turning away.
25. And We sent not before you any messenger except that We revealed to him that, "There is no deity except Me, so worship Me."
26. And they say, "The Most Merciful has taken a son." Exalted is He! Rather, they<sup>820</sup> are [but] honored servants.
27. They cannot precede Him in word, and they act by His command.
28. He knows what is [presently] before them and what will be after them,<sup>821</sup> and they cannot intercede except on behalf of one whom He approves. And they, from fear of Him, are apprehensive.
29. And whoever of them should say, "Indeed, I am a god besides Him" – that one We would recompense with Hell. Thus do We recompense the wrongdoers.
30. Have those who disbelieved not considered that the heavens and the earth were a joined entity, and We separated them and made from water every living thing? Then will they not believe?
31. And We placed within the earth firmly set mountains, lest it should shift with them, and We made therein [mountain] passes [as] roads that they might be guided.
32. And We made the sky a protected ceiling, but they, from its signs,<sup>822</sup> are turning away.
33. And it is He who created the night and the day and the sun and the moon; all [heavenly bodies] in an orbit are swimming.

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<sup>819</sup>All previous prophets called for the worship of Allāh alone.

<sup>820</sup>Those they claim to be "children" of Allāh, such as the angels, Ezra, Jesus, etc.

<sup>821</sup>See footnote to 2:255.

<sup>822</sup>The signs present in the heavens.