

45. And We had certainly sent to Thamūd their brother Ṣāliḥ, [saying], "Worship Allāh," and at once they were two parties conflicting.
46. He said, "O my people, why are you impatient for evil before [i.e., instead of] good?<sup>1007</sup> Why do you not seek forgiveness of Allāh that you may receive mercy?"
47. They said, "We consider you a bad omen, you and those with you." He said, "Your omen [i.e., fate] is with Allāh. Rather, you are a people being tested."<sup>1008</sup>
48. And there were in the city nine family heads causing corruption in the land and not amending [its affairs].
49. They said, "Take a mutual oath by Allāh that we will kill him by night, he and his family. Then we will say to his executor,<sup>1009</sup> 'We did not witness the destruction of his family, and indeed, we are truthful.'"
50. And they planned a plan, and We planned a plan, while they perceived not.
51. Then look how was the outcome of their plan – that We destroyed them and their people, all.
52. So those are their houses, desolate because of the wrong they had done. Indeed in that is a sign for people who know.
53. And We saved those who believed and used to fear Allāh.
54. And [mention] Lot, when he said to his people, "Do you commit immorality<sup>1010</sup> while you are seeing?"<sup>1011</sup>
55. Do you indeed approach men with desire instead of women? Rather, you are a people behaving ignorantly."

<sup>1007</sup>By challenging Ṣāliḥ to bring on the promised punishment rather than asking for mercy from Allāh.

<sup>1008</sup>Or "being tempted [by Satan]."

<sup>1009</sup>i.e., the one responsible for executing his will and avenging his blood.

<sup>1010</sup>Homosexual acts.

<sup>1011</sup>i.e., openly. Another meaning is "...while you are aware [that it is wrong]."

56. But the answer of his people was not except that they said, "Expel the family of Lot from your city. Indeed, they are people who keep themselves pure."
57. So We saved him and his family, except for his wife; We destined her to be of those who remained behind.
58. And We rained upon them a rain [of stones], and evil was the rain of those who were warned.
59. Say, [O Muḥammad], "Praise be to Allāh, and peace upon His servants whom He has chosen. Is Allāh better or what they associate with Him?"
60. [More precisely], is He [not best] who created the heavens and the earth and sent down for you rain from the sky, causing to grow thereby gardens of joyful beauty which you could not [otherwise] have grown the trees thereof? Is there a deity with Allāh?<sup>1012</sup> [No], but they are a people who ascribe equals [to Him].
61. Is He [not best] who made the earth a stable ground and placed within it rivers and made for it firmly set mountains and placed between the two seas a barrier? Is there a deity with Allāh? [No], but most of them do not know.
62. Is He [not best] who responds to the desperate one when he calls upon Him and removes evil and makes you inheritors of the earth?<sup>1013</sup> Is there a deity with Allāh? Little do you remember.
63. Is He [not best] who guides you through the darkneses of the land and sea and who sends the winds as good tidings before His mercy? Is there a deity with Allāh? High is Allāh above whatever they associate with Him.
64. Is He [not best] who begins creation and then repeats it and who provides for you from the heaven and earth? Is there a

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<sup>1012</sup>Three meanings are implied: "Is there another god who did all of this with Allāh?" or "Is there any deity worthy to be worshipped along with Allāh?" or "Is there a deity to be compared with Allāh?"

<sup>1013</sup>Generation after generation.