

23. Indeed this, my brother, has ninety-nine ewes, and I have one ewe; so he said, 'Entrust her to me,' and he overpowered me in speech."
24. [David] said, "He has certainly wronged you in demanding your ewe [in addition] to his ewes. And indeed, many associates oppress one another, except for those who believe and do righteous deeds – and few are they." And David became certain that We had tried him, and he asked forgiveness of his Lord¹²⁴⁰ and fell down bowing [in prostration] and turned in repentance [to Allāh].
25. So We forgave him that; and indeed, for him is nearness to Us and a good place of return.
26. [We said], "O David, indeed We have made you a successor upon the earth, so judge between the people in truth and do not follow [your own] desire, as it will lead you astray from the way of Allāh." Indeed, those who go astray from the way of Allāh will have a severe punishment for having forgotten the Day of Account.
27. And We did not create the heaven and the earth and that between them aimlessly. That is the assumption of those who disbelieve, so woe to those who disbelieve from the Fire.
28. Or should We treat those who believe and do righteous deeds like corrupters in the land? Or should We treat those who fear Allāh like the wicked?
29. [This is] a blessed Book which We have revealed to you, [O Muḥammad], that they might reflect upon its verses and that those of understanding would be reminded.
30. And to David We gave Solomon. An excellent servant, indeed he was one repeatedly turning back [to Allāh].
31. [Mention] when there were exhibited before him in the afternoon the poised [standing] racehorses.

¹²⁴⁰For his errors, such as fear and suspicion of the two men at the outset, any mistake in judgement he might have made, concealed feelings of partiality, etc.

32. And he said, "Indeed, I gave preference to the love of good [things] over the remembrance of my Lord until it [i.e., the sun] disappeared into the curtain [of darkness]."
33. [He said], "Return them to me," and set about striking¹²⁴¹ [their] legs and necks.
34. And We certainly tried Solomon and placed on his throne a body;¹²⁴² then he returned.¹²⁴³
35. He said, "My Lord, forgive me and grant me a kingdom such as will not belong to anyone after me. Indeed, You are the Bestower."
36. So We subjected to him the wind blowing by his command, gently, wherever he directed,
37. And [also] the devils [of jinn] – every builder and diver
38. And others bound together in shackles.
39. [We said], "This is Our gift, so grant or withhold without account."
40. And indeed, for him is nearness to Us and a good place of return.
41. And remember Our servant Job, when he called to his Lord, "Indeed, Satan has touched me with hardship and torment."
42. [So he was told], "Strike [the ground] with your foot; this is a [spring for a] cool bath and drink."
43. And We granted him his family and a like [number] with them as mercy from Us and a reminder for those of understanding.
44. [We said], "And take in your hand a bunch [of grass] and strike with it and do not break your oath."¹²⁴⁴ Indeed, We found him

¹²⁴¹With his sword as expiation. Some commentaries have also suggested the meaning of "stroking" with the hand.

¹²⁴²Said to be a devil or a lifeless body (one without capability), but Allāh alone knows.

¹²⁴³To sovereignty and to Allāh in repentance.

¹²⁴⁴At a point during his illness, Job became angry with his wife and swore that if he recovered, he would punish her with one hundred lashes. According to Allāh's instruction, the oath was fulfilled by striking her once with one hundred blades of grass.