

36. Only those who hear will respond. But the dead<sup>268</sup> – Allāh will resurrect them; then to Him they will be returned.
37. And they say, "Why has a sign not been sent down to him from his Lord?" Say, "Indeed, Allāh is Able to send down a sign, but most of them do not know."
38. And there is no creature on [or within] the earth or bird that flies with its wings except [that they are] communities like you. We have not neglected in the Register<sup>269</sup> a thing. Then unto their Lord they will be gathered.
39. But those who deny Our verses are deaf and dumb within darkneses. Whomever Allāh wills – He leaves astray; and whomever He wills – He puts him on a straight path.
40. Say, "Have you considered:<sup>270</sup> if there came to you the punishment of Allāh or there came to you the Hour – is it other than Allāh you would invoke, if you should be truthful?"
41. No, it is Him [alone] you would invoke, and He would remove that for which you invoked Him if He willed, and you would forget what you associate [with Him].
42. And We have already sent [messengers] to nations before you, [O Muḥammad]; then We seized them with poverty and hardship that perhaps they might humble themselves [to Us].
43. Then why, when Our punishment came to them, did they not humble themselves? But their hearts became hardened, and Satan made attractive to them that which they were doing.
44. So when they forgot that by which they had been reminded,<sup>271</sup> We opened to them the doors of every [good] thing until, when they rejoiced in that which they were given, We seized them suddenly, and they were [then] in despair.

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<sup>268</sup>i.e., the dead of heart, meaning the disbelievers.

<sup>269</sup>The Preserved Slate (*al-Lawḥ al-Mahfūth*), in which all things are recorded.

<sup>270</sup>The meaning is understood to be "Tell me..."

<sup>271</sup>i.e., their trial by poverty and hardship or the warnings of their prophets.

45. So the people that committed wrong were eliminated. And praise to Allāh, Lord of the worlds.
46. Say, "Have you considered:<sup>272</sup> if Allāh should take away your hearing and your sight and set a seal upon your hearts, which deity other than Allāh could bring them [back] to you?" Look how We diversify<sup>273</sup> the verses; then they [still] turn away.
47. Say, "Have you considered: if the punishment of Allāh should come to you unexpectedly or manifestly,<sup>274</sup> will any be destroyed but the wrongdoing people?"
48. And We send not the messengers except as bringers of good tidings and warners. So whoever believes and reforms – there will be no fear concerning them, nor will they grieve.
49. But those who deny Our verses – the punishment will touch<sup>275</sup> them for their defiant disobedience.
50. Say, [O Muḥammad], "I do not tell you that I have the depositories [containing the provision] of Allāh or that I know the unseen, nor do I tell you that I am an angel. I only follow what is revealed to me." Say, "Is the blind equivalent to the seeing? Then will you not give thought?"
51. And warn by it [i.e., the Qur‘ān] those who fear that they will be gathered before their Lord – for them besides Him will be no protector and no intercessor – that they might become righteous.
52. And do not send away those who call upon their Lord morning and afternoon, seeking His countenance. Not upon you is anything of their account and not upon them is anything of your account.<sup>276</sup> So were you to send them away, you would [then] be of the wrongdoers.

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<sup>272</sup>See footnote to verse 40.

<sup>273</sup>Repeat in various ways for emphasis and clarification.

<sup>274</sup>i.e., before your eyes.

<sup>275</sup>i.e., reach and afflict.

<sup>276</sup>No one is held accountable for the deeds or intentions of another. That is left to Allāh's judgement.