

92. Those who denied Shu'ayb – it was as though they had never resided there. Those who denied Shu'ayb – it was they who were the losers.
93. And he [i.e., Shu'ayb] turned away from them and said, "O my people, I had certainly conveyed to you the messages of my Lord and advised you, so how could I grieve for a disbelieving people?"
94. And We sent to no city a prophet [who was denied] except that We seized its people with poverty and hardship that they might humble themselves [to Allāh].
95. Then We exchanged in place of the bad [condition], good, until they increased [and prospered] and said, "Our fathers [also] were touched with hardship and ease."³⁴⁷ So We seized them suddenly while they did not perceive.³⁴⁸
96. And if only the people of the cities had believed and feared Allāh, We would have opened [i.e., bestowed] upon them blessings from the heaven and the earth; but they denied [the messengers], so We seized them for what they were earning.³⁴⁹
97. Then, did the people of the cities feel secure from Our punishment coming to them at night while they were asleep?
98. Or did the people of the cities feel secure from Our punishment coming to them in the morning while they were at play?³⁵⁰
99. Then, did they feel secure from the plan of Allāh? But no one feels secure from the plan of Allāh except the losing people.
100. Has it not become clear to those who inherited the earth after its [previous] people that if We willed, We could afflict them for their sins? But We seal over their hearts so they do not hear.³⁵¹

³⁴⁷ Instead of being grateful to Allāh for His blessings, they merely attributed them to the changing fortunes of time.

³⁴⁸ That they had been tried and tested.

³⁴⁹ Of blame for their sin.

³⁵⁰ i.e., occupied with such activities that have no benefit.

³⁵¹ They do not benefit from what they hear.

101. Those cities – We relate to you, [O Muḥammad], some of their news. And certainly did their messengers come to them with clear proofs, but they were not to believe in that which they had denied before.³⁵² Thus does Allāh seal over the hearts of the disbelievers.
102. And We did not find for most of them any covenant;³⁵³ but indeed, We found most of them defiantly disobedient.
103. Then We sent after them Moses with Our signs to Pharaoh and his establishment, but they were unjust toward them.³⁵⁴ So see how was the end of the corrupters.
104. And Moses said, "O Pharaoh, I am a messenger from the Lord of the worlds
105. [Who is] obligated not to say about Allāh except the truth. I have come to you with clear evidence from your Lord, so send with me the Children of Israel."³⁵⁵
106. [Pharaoh] said, "If you have come with a sign, then bring it forth, if you should be of the truthful."
107. So he [i.e., Moses] threw his staff, and suddenly it was a serpent, manifest.³⁵⁶
108. And he drew out his hand; thereupon it was white [with radiance] for the observers.
109. Said the eminent among the people of Pharaoh, "Indeed, this is a learned magician
110. Who wants to expel you from your land [through magic], so what do you instruct?"
111. They said,³⁵⁷ "Postpone [the matter of] him and his brother and send among the cities gatherers

³⁵²i.e., they persistently denied every warning given them.

³⁵³i.e., they were found to be unfaithful and negligent of Allāh's covenant.

³⁵⁴i.e., they rejected and opposed the signs.

³⁵⁵i.e., free them from oppression and allow them to emigrate.

³⁵⁶i.e., genuine and not imagined, as a miracle from Allāh.

³⁵⁷After mutual consultation and agreement.