

136. So We took retribution from them, and We drowned them in the sea because they denied Our signs and were heedless of them.
137. And We caused the people who had been oppressed to inherit the eastern regions of the land and the western ones, which We had blessed. And the good word [i.e., decree] of your Lord was fulfilled for the Children of Israel because of what they had patiently endured. And We destroyed [all] that Pharaoh and his people were producing and what they had been building.
138. And We took the Children of Israel across the sea; then they came upon a people intent in devotion to [some] idols of theirs. They [the Children of Israel] said, "O Moses, make for us a god just as they have gods." He said, "Indeed, you are a people behaving ignorantly.
139. Indeed, those [worshippers] – destroyed is that in which they are [engaged], and worthless is whatever they were doing."
140. He said, "Is it other than Allāh I should desire for you as a god³⁶³ while He has preferred you over the worlds?"
141. And [recall, O Children of Israel], when We saved you from the people of Pharaoh, [who were] afflicting you with the worst torment – killing your sons and keeping your women alive. And in that was a great trial from your Lord.
142. And We made an appointment with Moses for thirty nights and perfected them by [the addition of] ten; so the term of his Lord was completed as forty nights. And Moses said to his brother Aaron, "Take my place among my people, do right [by them],³⁶⁴ and do not follow the way of the corrupters."
143. And when Moses arrived at Our appointed time and his Lord spoke to him, he said, "My Lord, show me [Yourself] that I may look at You." [Allāh] said, "You will not see Me,³⁶⁵ but look at the mountain; if it should remain in place, then you

³⁶³ An object of worship.

³⁶⁴ i.e., keep their affairs in order.

³⁶⁵ During the life of this world.

- will see Me." But when his Lord appeared to the mountain, He rendered it level,³⁶⁶ and Moses fell unconscious. And when he awoke, he said, "Exalted are You! I have repented to You, and I am the first of the believers."
144. [Allāh] said, "O Moses, I have chosen you over the people with My messages and My words [to you]. So take what I have given you and be among the grateful."
145. And We wrote for him on the tablets [something] of all things – instruction and explanation for all things, [saying], "Take them with determination and order your people to take the best of it. I will show you the home of the defiantly disobedient."³⁶⁷
146. I will turn away from My signs those who are arrogant upon the earth without right; and if they should see every sign, they will not believe in it. And if they see the way of consciousness,³⁶⁸ they will not adopt it as a way; but if they see the way of error, they will adopt it as a way. That is because they have denied Our signs and they were heedless of them.
147. Those who denied Our signs and the meeting of the Hereafter – their deeds have become worthless. Are they recompensed except for what they used to do?
148. And the people of Moses made, after [his departure], from their ornaments a calf – an image having a lowing sound. Did they not see that it could neither speak to them nor guide them to a way? They took it [for worship], and they were wrongdoers.
149. And when regret overcame them³⁶⁹ and they saw that they had gone astray, they said, "If our Lord does not have mercy upon us and forgive us, we will surely be among the losers."

³⁶⁶It crumbled to dust.

³⁶⁷This is a severe warning from Allāh against rebellion.

³⁶⁸i.e., reason and integrity.

³⁶⁹Literally, "When their hands had been descended upon," i.e., bitten by them out of severe regret.