

150. And when Moses returned to his people, angry and grieved, he said, "How wretched is that by which you have replaced me after [my departure]. Were you impatient over the matter of your Lord?" And he threw down the tablets and seized his brother by [the hair of] his head, pulling him toward him. [Aaron] said, "O son of my mother, indeed the people oppressed me and were about to kill me, so let not the enemies rejoice over me³⁷⁰ and do not place me among the wrongdoing people."
151. [Moses] said, "My Lord, forgive me and my brother and admit us into Your mercy, for You are the most merciful of the merciful."
152. Indeed, those who took the calf [for worship] will obtain anger from their Lord and humiliation in the life of this world, and thus do We recompense the inventors [of falsehood].
153. But those who committed misdeeds and then repented after them and believed – indeed your Lord, thereafter, is Forgiving and Merciful.
154. And when the anger subsided in Moses, he took up the tablets; and in their inscription was guidance and mercy for those who are fearful of their Lord.
155. And Moses chose from his people seventy men for Our appointment.³⁷¹ And when the earthquake seized them,³⁷² he said, "My Lord, if You had willed, You could have destroyed them before and me [as well]. Would You destroy us for what the foolish among us have done? This is not but Your trial by which You send astray whom You will and guide whom You will. You are our Protector, so forgive us and have mercy upon us; and You are the best of forgivers.
156. And decree for us in this world [that which is] good and [also] in the Hereafter; indeed, we have turned back to You."

³⁷⁰ i.e., over your humiliation of me.

³⁷¹ Whereupon they were to apologize to Allāh for having worshipped the calf.

³⁷² Upon reaching the appointed place, they said to Moses, "We will not believe until we see Allāh outright." So the mountain convulsed, killing them.

[Allāh] said, "My punishment – I afflict with it whom I will, but My mercy encompasses all things." So I will decree it [especially] for those who fear Me and give zakāh and those who believe in Our verses –

157. Those who follow the Messenger, the unlettered prophet, whom they find written [i.e., mentioned] in what they have of the Torah and the Gospel, who enjoins upon them what is right and forbids them what is wrong and makes lawful for them the good things and prohibits for them the evil and relieves them of their burden³⁷³ and the shackles which were upon them.³⁷⁴ So they who have believed in him, honored him, supported him and followed the light which was sent down with him – it is those who will be the successful.
158. Say, [O Muḥammad], "O mankind, indeed I am the Messenger of Allāh to you all, [from Him] to whom belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth. There is no deity except Him; He gives life and causes death." So believe in Allāh and His Messenger, the unlettered prophet, who believes in Allāh and His words, and follow him that you may be guided.
159. And among the people of Moses is a community³⁷⁵ which guides by truth and by it establishes justice.
160. And We divided them into twelve descendant tribes³⁷⁶ [as distinct] nations. And We inspired to Moses when his people implored him for water, "Strike with your staff the stone," and there gushed forth from it twelve springs. Every people [i.e., tribe] knew its watering place. And We shaded them with clouds and sent down upon them manna and quails, [saying], "Eat from the good things with which We have provided you." And they wronged Us not, but they were [only] wronging themselves.

³⁷³Difficulties in religious practice.

³⁷⁴i.e., extreme measures previously required for repentance, and retribution without recourse to compensation.

³⁷⁵Those of them who accepted and followed the final prophet, Muḥammad (ﷺ).

³⁷⁶From the twelve sons of Jacob.