

Mohammed. *The Qur'an*. Translated by M. A. S. Abdel Haleem. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Muhammad (570-632 A.D.), who is also called Mohammed, spread monotheism over indigenous Arabian polytheism by argument, politics, and war. Muhammad's early life was a trail of loss, as his father, mother, and grandfather all died before Muhammad reached eight years of age. Muhammad joined his uncle, Abu Talib, in trade travel, and as a young man worked as a Meccan trader. He met Khadijah, fifteen years his senior, who proposed marriage. They supported one another until Khadijah's death, when Muhammad was forty-nine years old. Muhammad frequently meditated in a cave outside Mecca, and there the first of the Qur'anic revelations came to him in 610 A.D. Muhammad's message offended the Meccans, who boycotted Muhammad's entire clan. The Year of Grief arrived, during which both Muhammad's uncle and Khadijah died. The angel Gabriel accompanied Muhammad to Jerusalem and then heaven. Muhammad's followers began to migrate to Yathrib, where his message was better received. Narrowly escaping assassination, Muhammad himself moved to Yathrib (the Hegira). There, Muhammad built Islam's first mosque. Muhammad united the tribes of Yathrib, and the name of the city changed to Medina (City of the Prophet). Battles with Meccan armies ensued, and over a number of years, the Muslims eventually prevailed. The Arabian peninsula was consolidated as a Muslim state. Muhammad delivered a farewell speech on the Mount of Mercy in Mecca. Muhammad died in Medina, shortly after receiving the final revelation of the Qur'an.

An Epitome of the General Message of the Qur'an

God, who is merciful and the only god, sends his messengers to peoples. God makes some people able to respond with belief and good works and obedience to God's prescriptions. Others, mired in disbelief, doubt the resurrection of all, God's judgment, and the veracity of God's messengers, among whom stand Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, Idris, Dhu'l-Kifl, Job, John the Baptist, Moses, David, Solomon, and Jesus. Preeminent, last, and most reliable among God's prophets is Muhammad. Still, many doubt Muhammad, and disparage him. Such vile persons shall not fare well. The Arabic Qur'an exceeds all other revelations. God knows all, even what men hide. God guides men by his Qur'an. Give. Defend and give to orphans, the aged, the traveler, and other vulnerable persons. Beware excessive wealth, numerous children, and overweening affection for either. God should be first in your heart. Speak and act in candor. Fight those who oppose faith in God. Worship. Pray. Heed God's prophet, and revere him. God judges with perfect fairness every man and his acts. In this life, God destroys evildoers who have rejected his message, even entire peoples, if he pleases. They self-deceive. On the day of judgment, every human will be physically resurrected and recompensed according to his deeds. Each will answer for his deeds; none may speak for others. Believers will be richly rewarded with gardens containing comforts and luxuries and beautiful maidens. Disbelievers will be terribly tortured in perpetuity by a hell of searing heat and unending agonies. God beats his drum with this warning because the hearts of men are hard and temptations many. Yet, God induces faith in whom he will. God is merciful, but harsh with disbelief.

Sura 1. The Opening. In the name of merciful God. We praise and worship you. Help us avoid error; guide our acts.

Sura 2. The Cow. In the name of merciful God. This scripture benefits those mindful of God, who will prosper. Unbelievers cannot hear or profit, and will suffer. Some pretend faith, mocking God; agony rewards their lying. God has all power. Turn on him, and you will miss the gardens of heaven, being resurrected to torment. God puts his agent on earth, despite the angels' reservations, for God knows all. When Adam disobeyed, God reproved him. Adam repented, and God forgave. Unbelievers will burn in perpetual fire. Keep God in mind. Pray. Give. Worship.

(2:47) God blessed the Hebrews, gave Moses scripture, saved them in time of need, and gave them water. They killed God's prophets and broke laws. (2:62) All Muslims, Jews, Christians, and Sabians who believe in God and the Last Day and do good: these persons God will reward. Moses told the Hebrews to sacrifice a cow. After equivocating, the Hebrews killed the cow and struck themselves with its members, foreshadowing resurrection.

Muslims can share with Hebrews, but some do not believe. The Fire is for them, but the Garden for believers.

(2:87) God sends prophets in succession. Moses, then Jesus, now Muhammad. When you hear things you dislike from those God sends, you kill or disparage the messengers. Like the Hebrews who drank their ground up golden calf after receiving revelation, some Muslims say they believe, but do not. If one believed, he would long for death so he might take up residence with God. But you do not.

(2:97) This Qur'an confirms previous scriptures and comes from God to his prophet. The book guides and encourages believers. Many Hebrews disbelieved their own scriptures. People of the Book (Christians and Jews) criticize one another, and both lament Islam. Both are wrong. (2:112) Any person devoted to God, doing good, will be rewarded by God. Christians and Jews want others to adopt their ways. Do not do so. Just follow God.

(2:127) The Ka'ba in Mecca stands where Abram and Ishmael laid its foundations. Islam is Abraham's religion. Muslims need not follow Jewish or Christian ways. Some pray toward Jerusalem. Muslims pray toward Mecca's Sacred Mosque. God honors the faith and good deeds of believers. (2:154) Those who die in God's cause live, though mortals do not recognize it. The steadfast persevere. In doing the minor pilgrimage to Mecca, do not fear going up the hills where polytheists worshipped. God rewards good deeds, and punishes unbelief, for he sees all.

(2:163) God is one; there is no other. So eat what is good and lawful; avoid all else, such as carrion, blood, pork, and unblessed animals. You can eat even of these in exigent circumstances. God will forgive if you might otherwise starve.

(2:177) Goodness consists not in prayer directions, but rather faith in God and judgment, angels, the scripture and prophets, giving to needy persons, freeing those enslaved, praying and almsgiving, honoring promises, and showing resilience in adversity. Doing these things is being aware of God. Do not exceed what is fair in retribution. Take what was taken, no more. If the aggrieved family relents, relent. When a wealthy man dies, let him leave gifts to his parents and relatives. (2:185) God gave revelation in the month of Ramadan, so fast during that month. If you cannot, fast other days. If fasting injures you, then give to a needy person instead. God wants ease, not hardship, for you. Be thankful. In the Ramadan fast, eat and drink at night. You may also have sex with your wives, but not during mosque retreats.

(2:190) If attacked, respond. Kill opponents, and retake lost lands. Kill disbelievers until they stop their opposition. End their persecutions. Fight only aggressors.

(2:196) Travel to Mecca for major and minor pilgrimages. If you cannot, then fast and send an offering. Go in the prescribed months; behave well. God is watching. All opponents do not appear as such. They sow calamity in their wake. Prefer compassionate men. Men's disagreements shattered the human community. The Scriptures judge between men in their disputes. God guides them out of conflicts. When you suffer misfortune, give to the needy. God is watching your goodness.

(2:216) God sets you to fight. Do not fight in Ramadan, unless you must to insure access to Mecca. Persecution of worshipping Muslims is worse than killing people. Avoid intoxicants and gambling. If you adopt an orphan, keep their money safe. Avoid marriage with unbelievers. Do not give your daughters in marriage to unbelievers. Avoid women during menstruation; do not have sex. (2:225) Oaths and careless words do not matter. Make peace between people. God holds you to the intentions of your heart, which he sees.

(2:227) Divorce is permitted, within limits. Women must wait three months before remarrying, to insure they are not pregnant. If pregnant, it is best for the husband to take them back. One can divorce the same woman twice; after that she must marry another in between these marriages, and a third to the same man. In agreed short term marriages, let the woman go fairly. (2:233) Women may breast-feed babies for two years. The father shall support the mother, but neither shall be asked to suffer inordinately. Widows must wait before marrying for 130 days. In bride prices, be generous. God is watching. Leave a gift for your widow from your estate, and provide maintenance to divorced women. Remember the refugees.

(2:244) War for God. God recounts the biblical story of Saul, king of Israel, and David and Goliath.

(2:252) Muhammad is one of God's messengers. Jesus was another. Christians and Muslims would not have fought were it not God's will. God is the only god, always watching and tremendous. (2:256) One does not compel others to one's religion; God guides all. God can make the sun rise in the west, or kill and resurrect men at will. All things naturally return to God.

(2:261) Giving in God's cause makes a man wealthy. Do not advertise your generosity, or remind the beneficiaries. Do not hurt people's feelings. Inner ugliness renders good deeds moot, in God's eyes. (2:275) God forbids usury. He permits trade, but not lending at interest. When one owes you money and cannot pay, forbear. If you write off interest, that is a good deed. When you make a loan, write it down and have witnesses. Deal justly with one another. Never hide evidence.

(2:285) Muhammad believes this message, as do the faithful and angels and prophets. God never gives more than a man can bear. Protect us against unbelievers.

Sura 3. The Family of 'Imran. In the name of merciful God. Only God is god. (3:2-7) God sent scriptures to Muhammad to confirm those earlier given: the Torah and the Gospel and the concept of right and wrong. Not all scripture is plain in its meaning. God knows its intent, but wrongdoers focus on ambiguities to rewrite religion to their liking. Disbelievers will dwell in Hell. Life's good things are well, but the Gardens of God are much to be preferred. (3:19) True religion is Islam (exclusive devotion to God). Some peoples of the Book walk away from God, relying on their mistaken rules. (3:28) Do not make alliances with disbelievers, except to defend yourself from them.

Imran is the father of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Mary's mother dedicated Mary wholly to God. Mary's father, Zachariah, speaks with angels who tell him that John has confirmed the Word from God (Jesus). (3:45-59) Jesus is the Messiah, and dear to God. Jesus was born without sexual intercourse, as was Adam. Jesus' mission was to make things lawful that had once been proscribed. Jesus was resurrected to be with God.

God wants the Jews, Christians, and Muslims to state their faith in common, worshipping God alone with no partners. Islam harks back to Abraham, who preceded Jews and Christians. Some People of the Book are moral; others not. Some twist Scripture. Islamic people accept all People of the Book. Islam incorporates their religions in worship of the one true God. Abraham's religion was first. He established the worship place in Mecca, to which pilgrimage is a duty for all able-bodied Islamic people.

(3:103) Among Muslims, avoid factions. God made you brothers. Make your community one that does good and opposes wrong. That will make you successful.

Do not fear People of the Book. Even when they fight you, they will do so weakly, and will soon run. Some are evil and will be punished. But others are good, worshipping God, doing good, and living rightly. God knows them and will reward. Disbelievers punish themselves. Do not become close friends with outsiders. They say they worship god, but privately they despise him and you. God gives victory in battle to whom he pleases. God punishes wrongdoers. (3:144) Muhammad is one messenger among a long train of messengers. God rewards those who steadfastly do good and fight for God. In battle, one group faltered and was defeated, though victory was in their hands. Another group demanded to help plan battle. God gave them defeat to test them. (3:157-158) Live or die in battle, you will be gathered to God. That is the best thing there is. God loves those who trust him. Calamity in battle tests believers' mettle. Those who die in battle are amply rewarded. They are not dead, but with God. God makes messengers of whom he will. Believe God and his messengers, and you will be rewarded greatly. Disbelieve, and unending torment will be yours. On Resurrection Day, disbelievers will be paid in full for their faithlessness. This life tests you with possessions and persons. Do not be distracted. Do not be tempted by the wealth of unbelieving traders. They sell God's revelation for a pittance. Be mindful of God and prosper.

Sura 4. Women. In the name of merciful God. All men come from a single soul; ask things of one another mindful of God. Do not break relations with relatives. Deal fairly with orphans, especially girls. Take four wives if you must. Take care of property for minors and mentally-

impaired persons. Give them their property if they prove able to manage it. Men and women alike should inherit from family. Care for relatives, orphans, and the needy. You may become one of them. If you do otherwise, God will punish. (4:11-12) Muhammad lays out inheritance laws; property devolves to relatives. Laws for conviction of sexual crimes are described. (4:16-18) God forgives the repentant, but only when error was unknowing and soon forsaken. Do not inherit women, and treat wives kindly. Muhammad lays out forbidden marriage. Marry; do not fornicate. Marry a slave if you cannot afford a free woman.

(4:26-28) God specifies his laws. Since man is weak, God seeks to make laws not too difficult to follow. If you avoid fraud and murder, God will wink at minor misdeeds.

(4:34) Arrogant wives should be ignored in bed, then struck once. If she repents, let the matter lie.

(4:36-37) Help relatives and needy persons, neighbors, travelers, and slaves. God hates arrogant boasters, especially penurious ones who encourage others to imitate them. God hates people who spend money to show off. God will punish and humiliate. Never pray drunk. Stay away from the mosque if you need ritual cleansing. Some Jews disparage Islam. Join no one to God. (4:56) All who reject Muhammad's revelations shall burn in hell. Give people their property; judge fairly. Hypocrites talk a good fight. They cannot become true except by submitting to God in every issue.

(4:74-76) When you fight, fight in God's way. You will be rewarded. Fight for just causes. Your opponents seek injustice. (4:79) Good outcomes are from God; bad outcomes issue from you. (4:82) The Qur'an is from God; it lacks many self-contradictions.

God urges Muhammad to fight, and encourage followers to do so as well. Muhammad is accountable only to himself. Those who resist must be killed. Those who submit shall be spared. Take no hypocrites as allies. One who murders a believer must die and burn in the Fire of Hell. If the killing was a mistake, then one must pay compensation and free one slave. God rewards those who fight. If one is not free to practice Islam where he lives, that person should migrate. Defend yourself, even when praying. Unbelievers want to kill you.

Do not advocate for those who do not believe. They injure themselves by sin; God sees all and will judge. Let Scripture guide you. God punishes mixed worship. God is One. He holds paradise for believers, and inescapable hell for disbelievers.

Be good to orphans. (4:128) If spouses need to divorce, do so peacefully. Peace is preferable. You may not be able to treat all wives equally, but never ignore one utterly. Uphold justice. Testify against yourself, if necessary. Do not relate to people who make fun of God's Scripture. Make no alliances with hypocrites. Those who take some Scripture, but not all, are unbelievers. (4:155-158) They slander Mary, when they say they killed Jesus. They did not crucify Jesus, though it looked to them as though they had. God intervened, raising Jesus to himself. As a result of all the prophets, whom God sent to men, men have no excuse. (4:171) Christians, avoid theological excess. Jesus was the Messiah of the Jews, and a voice from God. He was not God's son; there is no trinity. God is above such things.

A childless person's possessions, if there are no parents, shall go to his brothers and sisters, twice as much to brothers as sisters.

Sura 5. The Feast. In the name of merciful God. Believers can eat livestock, but shall not hunt on pilgrimage. Carrion is forbidden, pig, strangled animals, animal sacrifices of other gods, or any gored animal. Avoid pagan habits. Your religion is utter devotion to God. You may eat of forbidden foods if you are starving. You may eat what People of the Book eat. (5:6) Before you pray, wash your faces, hands, heads, and feet. If you are sick, traveling, have defecated, or had coitus and lack water, use sand. Adhere to justice; do not let hatred pervert you. Jews and Christians distort God's word, and are seldom to be trusted. They make of Jesus a god, and ignore Muhammad. They anger God. Muhammad recounts Israel's fear of the peoples of Palestine, and Cain's murder of Abel. (5:32) When one murders, he murders all mankind. When one saves, one saves all mankind. Those who war against Islam must be killed or mutilated or banished, unless they submit. Unbelievers will suffer everlasting torments. Cut off a thief's hands. God revealed the Torah to the Jews, and sent them prophets. An eye for an eye, but if you forgive, that atones for your ill actions. (5:48) The Qur'an confirms previous scripture, and has final authority over all scriptures. Jesus

confirmed the Torah, and brought the gospel. Make haste to do good. God is watching. Do not hide among Christians and Jews. They are not allies. Only God, the prophets, and believers can be trusted. Jews and Christians have distorted God's dictates. God opposes them; they do evil. But Jews, Christians, Sabians, and Muslims who believe in God and do good; they need not fear. (5:72) Those who say "Jesus is God" or talk of trinity defy God. Jesus was Messiah and a messenger, but no more. He was one among several. Believers will find Christian ascetics and monks, humble people, who recognize God's voice in Muhammad's revelations. Keep your oaths; if you break one, feed ten poor people or free a slave. If you are poor, then fast. Avoid drink, idols, gambling, and divination; all are from Satan. Do good deeds. God notices. Do not hunt on pilgrimage, and if you do, atone. Even on pilgrimage, gather seafood. Outsiders say otherwise. Unbelievers lie about God. Get two witnesses for making bequests near the time of death. Muhammad confirms apocryphal stories about Jesus. (5:116) Jesus expressly denies the claims of Christians as to Jesus' divinity.

Sura 6. Livestock. In the name of merciful God. Disbelievers set up rivals to the one God. They mock Muhammad, and are terribly punished by God. God brings good and evil to people. The Qur'an is a warning to all: there is but one God. Disbelievers lose their souls and lie about God. This is the greatest wrong possible. Disbelievers call the Qur'an folktales, and encourage others to disregard it. Ultimately, God seals up their souls so they will not comprehend the Qur'an. Those God enables hear. Even the dead will be raised up. God sent hardships and prophets to explain. But people hardened their hearts, and let Satan make their vices appealing to them. So God wiped them out. Muhammad can explain as many ways as he wants. Many will still ignore him. Cling to believers. Welcome them. If they do wrong and repent, God forgives. God sees all. He keeps a perfect Record. When death comes, God judges. He makes decisions quickly. Shun those who do wrong. They imagine religion a game, and lose themselves in this world. They will be made to drink boiling water. God guides truly: be devoted, pray at prescribed times, and be mindful of God. He made all and will gather all to himself. God has sent many messengers before Muhammad. Muhammad lists these. Those who promulgate false revelations will be terribly punished. God alone fashioned you all from a single soul. He made you and the entire world, working in orderly fashion. God has no spouse, and so no children. None stands beside him. God sees all, but none sees all of him. God has infinite subtleties you cannot fathom. (6:108) Do not disparage the non-gods others worship. God makes their worship seem appealing to them. In the end, God will prevail. Eat only meat consecrated to God. God opens and closes hearts. Those who believe shall make their home with God. Death will, for them, lead to a happy homecoming. Those who sacrifice their own children to idols fail to heed God. God dislikes wasteful people. You may eat meat consecrated to God, except carrion, blood, and pig. Do not kill your children because you fear poverty. Protect orphans' property. Do not overburden others. Speak justly, even if it injures your relatives. So, worship God, say your prayers, and take care of your own obedience.

Sura 7. The Heights. In the name of merciful God. God has given this revelation to Muhammad to warn believers. God has destroyed many cities. But God made man wonderfully, and commanded angels to bow down before man. One angel, Iblis, refused. God castigated Iblis, and Iblis promised to lie in wait for all humans, to corrupt them. God damned Iblis to Hell with all who follow him. (7:19) Adam and his wife resided in the Garden, but could not eat from one tree. Satan told them of their nakedness and they ate from the forbidden tree, and they hid their parts with leaves. God evicted them from the Garden, and made them enemies to one another. Believers, do not follow Adam or Iblis. Wear garments, but wear awareness of God most often. Unbelievers will claim they follow God's commands. Contradict them. Dress nicely for worship. Avoid extravagance. (7:32) Do not indulge unwarranted violence. Do not associate things with God. Those who do not believe will join crowds of other disbelievers in Hell; they will punish one another. (7:40) Those who reject God's revelation will not enter Heaven, even though a thick rope should pass through a tiny needle eye. The blessed and the rejected will recognize one another from afar, and disbelievers will call for

believers' help. But believers are forbidden to help those in Hell. God gives the scripture to guide believers. Approach God in humility; he forgives those who do good. God sent Noah; those who rejected Noah drowned. God sent Hud; those who rejected him died. God sent Salih who gave them a symbolic camel; those who disbelieved hamstringed the camel. They died by earthquake. God sent Lot to chastise homosexuality; those who rejected his message died in a hail of fire. God sent Shu'ayb; those who rejected him died by earthquake. Always, God sends prophets, they speak, some believe and prosper, others doubt and suffer. God sent Moses to Pharaoh; Moses contested with the sorcerers of the land and prevailed. Pharaoh angered. He refused to let the Children of Israel go, despite many signs and plagues. So God drowned him and his followers. God saved Israel, but they worshipped a calf made from jewelry. Moses received inscribed tablets from God. Moses, after his anger abated, sought mercy for the people. The faithful were divided into twelve communities and found food and water from God. In one village, fish rose only on Sabbaths, to test the people. They ignored guidance and were punished. If Heaven exists, one should want it. So, follow the scripture. God has been telling people what to do since Adam. There was a prophet who threw away God's messages. He became foul before God. God lets the insolence of unbelievers muddle them. None knows when God will judge, but God alone. Judgment will come suddenly. Ignore the fools who reject God; Flee to God when Satan tempts you. Listen to the Qur'an quietly. Remember God morning and evening. Worship him.

Sura 8. Battle Gains. In the name of merciful God. The Muslims argue about how to divide battle booty. Muhammad reminds them that God gave victory, and believers tremble before God and give to others. God fought for them in battle, and against their enemies, who outnumbered the believers. Never flee in battle. It is God who fights alongside believers. God is so close to believers that he comes between them and their own hearts. When dead, God gathers them to himself. One's children and possessions test one; real reward lies in God. The unbelievers bar you from Mecca's sacred mosque; their prayers there are empty noise. Fight the unbelievers until they cease persecution and all worship is given to God alone. God fought and won your battle. Give twenty percent of all booty to Muhammad, close relatives and orphans, the needy and travelers. When facing battle, focus on God and avoid quarrels. God destroyed your enemies because they were like Pharaoh and his people. They denied God's signs. In battle, make an example of treaty-breakers. It will deter future betrayals. Make peace with those who seek it. Trust God. If you face forces many times your numbers, you will prevail. Enjoy your battle spoils, but remember their source in God. Believers who fled with Muhammad to Medina are allies; believers who did not flee should now flee. If they are persecuted, Muslims should help them. Support one another; the disbelievers do so. Much harm will come to you if you fail in supporting one another.

Sura 9. Repentance. [Lacks initial invocation.] Muhammad declares that his treaties with unbelievers will be rescinded on the day of pilgrimage. Unbelievers will be free to travel for four months. Then they will be at risk. Believers must kill, seize, besiege and ambush those who broke treaties. Release them, only if the unbeliever repents and pays alms. Keep only treaties formalized at the Sacred Mosque. Only believers should tend the Sacred Mosque. Fight the Jews and Christians who allow permissive actions, fail to pay the People of the Book tax, and elevate others to stand beside God, such as Ezra the prophet or Jesus. (9:33) Islam is above other religions. Four months are sacred; fighting is not allowed, except when assaulted. God helps his own with invisible powers, as he helped Muhammad escape Mecca with his companion. God instructs Muhammad not to give exemptions from fighting to those who are troubled by the prospect of war. They will go to Hell. Such persons complain and plot. They want a share of alms, but alms are for the poor, for people who need to find faith, for freeing slaves and debtors, for God's wars, and for travelers in need. (9:61) Those who insult Muhammad will suffer terrible torments. Make no jokes at Muhammad's expense. You will be punished. Hypocrites will burn in hell. They promise obedience, but refuse at the last moment. They giggle; God will make them weep. Do not envy their possessions. They beg to stay home from battle. Let them. They will pay. Those who fight with Muhammad inherit God's own garden. Those who cannot fight will not be condemned. Only

those who stay behind because of their wealth and fear of death will suffer. Many of the desert Arabs are recalcitrant. They lie about hoping things will go badly for Muhammad. Those who helped Muhammad and his fleeing Meccan believers in Medina will be blessed. When unbelievers repent, take alms from their property and pray for them. That will comfort, and God will forgive. Some unbelievers built a rival mosque; Muhammad must avoid it and pray in mosques of faithful persons. (9:111) Believers kill and are killed, and for that are rewarded, as promised in the Torah, gospel, and Qur'an. God rewards those who do good deeds. Sura after sura, God reveals himself, and disbelievers are confirmed in the unreasoning perversity.

Sura 10. Jonah. In the name of merciful God. God speaks through Muhammad. Still, disbelievers call Muhammad a sorcerer. God made time so people can understand. Those who persevere in disbelief will drink boiling water. If God hastened the good to people, he would also hasten their judgment. Time would be up. God does not act rashly; he lets evil people stew in their predicaments. God shows mercy, and the unbelievers forget. They want a different Qur'an. Muhammad objects that he only speaks as God directs. At the end of time, God will confront each person with all that person has done. (10:25) God invites all to the home of peace, and leads some to virtue. The virtuous will be rewarded, but the evil punished. Evil people invent gods to sit alongside God. God will make them see, then punish. There is only the truth of God, and error. God sees all we do. Disbelievers refuse to think; they wrong themselves. (10:47) God sends a messenger to every community; each will be judged with justice when their time comes. God sees all, every mote of dust, and records it. (10:64) God's word cannot be changed. Christians say "God has children." Those who invent lies will suffer for their blasphemies. As in Noah's day, God drowns disbelievers and saves the faithful. Then came Moses. Disbelievers accused him too of sorcery. God destroyed Pharaoh. God encourages Muhammad to take heart; others have come before him and were rejected. God sent Jonah, and spared his town for a time. (10:99) God could make all men believers. Muhammad cannot make people believe. God wills belief for some, and condemns others who refuse to use their reason. Worship God. All that happens in life, God wills. God harms; God lavishes bounty. Accept what God gives you. Be steadfast. Follow the Qur'an.

Sura 11. Hud. In the name of merciful God. The Qur'an is perfect because it comes from omniscient God. He sent Muhammad to warn and deliver good news. Worship only God. God keeps track of everything; nothing is hidden from him. God encourages Muhammad, who is dismayed by allegation that he preaches sorcery and invents his suras himself and cannot command angels. Opponents vaunt their worldly successes, and Muhammad's deficiency of that. God warns of their destruction, and asserts his truth despite disbelief. When *Noah* preached, disbelievers reviled him for having poor followers. Detractors said Noah was nothing special, and alleged that Noah lied. Noah objected that he never claimed to distribute God's wealth or be an angel. God gives as he sees fit. So, Noah built that ark. People ridiculed Noah. The rains came. Even Noah's own son refused to board the ark. All but those who did board drowned. God quelled the rain. The ark settled on Mount Judi. Noah complained to God of the death of his son. God said that son was not one of Noah's family and chided Noah. God notes that of these stories Muhammad knew nothing. (11:49) Believers will dominate the future. God sent *Hud* admonishing the 'Ad people to worship only God. Hearers demanded evidence. They complained Hud is only one man. So God gave their land to another people, but saved Hud and the believers. God sent *Salih* to Thamud, preaching one God. The people told Salih of their disappointment because he abandoned their traditional gods. God saved Salih, but killed the Thamud in their beds by a blast. Deny God, you die. God sent angels to destroy Lot's family. *Abraham* begged them to forebear, to no avail. Lot sacrificed his daughters to the wicked townspeople who lusted to sodomize the angels visiting Abraham. God destroyed all of the town, even Lot's wife. God sent *Shu'ayb* to Midian, preaching that there exist no gods but God. Midian shorted the scales in trade and corrupted justice. The Midianites refused to leave their father's gods, and said they would do as they wished with their property. They reviled Shu'ayb for his weakness,

and threatened to stone him. God saved Shu'ayb, but destroyed Midian by an explosion. God sent *Moses* to Pharaoh. The Egyptians did not heed, and were destroyed. All these people wronged themselves. The Day comes. God will punish and reward with eternal fire and everlasting paradise. (11:110) God's scripture came to the Jews, but there were disputes about, so God has forestalled judgment of that people. So, keep praying. God does not destroy peoples who do good. But God fills Hell with jinn and men. God recounts these stories to hearten Muhammad. Trust in God.

Sura 12. Joseph. In the name of merciful God. (12:2) The Qur'an is in Arabic so everyday people can understand. The Qur'an is revealed to Muhammad. Joseph dreamed heavenly bodies submitted to him. God warned him not to reveal the dream to his brothers, who would harm Joseph. They conspired to throw Joseph in a well. When they had done so, they pretended to their father to grieve. In this manner, God elevated Joseph. Travelers rescued Joseph, and another bought him. When grown, his owner's wife and friends tried to seduce Joseph, for he was beautiful. For a time, Joseph was imprisoned. Joseph interpreted dreams for fellow cellmates. Most people miss these facts: God always prevails, and this faith is the true faith. The king dreamed, and Joseph interpreted it. Joseph sought mercy from the king. Though man's soul incites misdeeds, Joseph swore he had not had sex with the king's wife. The king let Joseph manage the granaries. Joseph's brothers came to him, not recognizing Joseph, for grain. Joseph sent them away to get their brother, but returned their goods. The brothers returned with the youngest brother. Joseph found a stolen cup in the brothers' bags. Joseph sent them back to Jacob, who sent them back for their brother. Joseph revealed himself to them, and gave them a shirt to heal Jacob's blindness. Jacob traveled to Egypt, and was elevated. This account was revealed to Muhammad, as other things were revealed to his predecessors. The Qur'an is a blessing to believers.

Sura 13. Thunder. In the name of merciful God. The scripture is true. There are signs for reasonable people in the marvels of nature and in the prosperity of some above others. Unbelievers criticize Muhammad because he cannot do miracles on command. It was always so with God's prophets. God makes the lives of those who forsake him in their hearts worse. Thunder bangs its drum to praise God. Thunderbolts strike whom God pleases. Still, unbelievers equivocate. Their prayers accomplish nothing. Believers recognize the truth in God's revelation. They keep promises; they fear judgment; they pray; they give secretly and also openly; they drive out evil with goodness. Those who do not believe will be rejected. Unbelievers demand miracles. Miracles could come from this Qur'an if God willed. Muhammad's job is to recite what God tells him. Unbelievers will be punished in this world and the next. (13:37) The Qur'an has arrived in Arabic to give judgment. There are various scriptures, one for each age. Muhammad's task is to deliver God's message. God knows and judges every soul.

Sura 14. Abraham. In the name of merciful God. God sent the scripture to Muhammad to illuminate life for those in darkness. God sent messengers to other cultures with scriptures in their own languages. Those who stray have no excuse, and will be punished. God sent Moses, Noah, and others. People persecuted them. Disbelievers asked for proofs. All such will be damned to Hell. They will wiggle and negotiate, to no avail. A good word is a well-rooted leafy tree; evil words are rotten rootless trees. Evil-doers prefer the latter. When judgment arrives, there will be no bargaining. So pray and give alms. Muhammad recounts Abraham's faithfulness and God's favor for him. Unbelievers have anguished holes in their hearts. God will punish and reward as people deserve. God is swift.

Sura 15. Al-Hijr. In the name of merciful God. The Qur'an clarifies matters, and God himself sends it to Muhammad. God judges every community in its own time. God provides for all creatures. (15:26) God formed man from dried clay of dark mud, and breathes his own spirit into man. Jinn god shaped from fire wind. God told all angels to bow down before man, but Iblis refused. God condemned Iblis, but let him have power over disbelievers until the day of resurrection. Then Iblis and unbelievers will be damned to painful Hell. Muhammad

recounts the story of Lot's family, their escape from Lot's town, with the exception of Lot's wife, and God's destruction of Lot's town. Muhammad recounts God's destruction of the unbelieving people of al-Hijr, whose homes carved in mountains did not protect them. God encourages Muhammad to persevere in worship and delivering his message, despite discouragement. God will judge.

Sura 16. The Bee. In the name of merciful God. God's judgment arrives soon enough. He made all things: man, livestock, beasts of burden. God shows men the right way. But not all men. He has made all plants for human use. (16:12) There are signs in this design for those who reason. God made all the earth and the seas with their plenty. Are you paying attention? Only God is god. Other divinities are dead. God condemns those who deny the resurrection. Good in this world and the next awaits the obedient. The disobedient will reap their sins. God sends messengers to every people. Some among them God guides, others go astray. God creates by fiat. All creation submits to God, even angels. They fear and obey. God demands you worship him alone. Add no other gods. Some think angels female, and despise the female babies given them. (16:57-60) Commit no infanticide; it is God who decides life and death. Satan misleads many; he and they will suffer. God has given the herd for milk, the date palm for sweetness and bees to make healing honey. These all are signs from God for the thoughtful person. God made you and reclaims you in death. Some aged persons, once knowing, will recall nothing. Only God perseveres and ever knows. God gives you your families. (16:74) Make no images about God. God equips men differently, some for good, others for evil. God has all power. God makes birds fly and gives men fire and shelter and clothing; all should cause devotion. But some turn away, heedless. Preach to them, Prophet. Your duty is to deliver God's message clearly. God demands justice, good deeds, and generosity toward family, and avoidance of evils. Deceive no one. Male or female, it does not matter; God rewards all persons according to their best actions. (16:102) The Holy Spirit brings Muhammad revelation in bits from God to build up believers. Unbelievers say Muhammad makes up the revelation. But revelation is in Arabic, plain for the people. God punishes disbelievers. God makes them faithless, dumb, and blind, then damns them. (16:112-113) Here is the pattern: God gives a people their town and ease in abundance. They grow ungrateful, and famine strikes. God sends a messenger to them; they call him a liar. So, they are punished. Eat what is lawful: no carrion, blood, pig, or animals sacrificed to idols. If you are starving, even these God may forgive. Emulate Abraham. He forsook idols and obeyed. God calls Muhammad to reveal God's message with courtesy, and to respond to attacks proportionately. God knows and supports those mindful of him.

Sura 17. The Night Journey. In the name of merciful God. God took Muhammad from Mecca to Jerusalem by night to show him signs. God gave Moses scripture for Israel. Twice they deviated from God, and were destroyed. God will do so again, if they err. (17:9) The Qur'an is ultimate authority. It tells that God rewards faithfulness, and punishes those who doubt life after death. (17:11) Hasty men pray for evil as often as good. God keeps track individually. You can read your own record and calculate for yourself. God sends a messenger to warn, then punishes each person according to his deserts. God gives much to all, though not identical amounts. In heaven, even greater differentiation awaits. Care for your parents. When they age, be patient and respectful. Care for them as they cared for you as a child. Give to relatives, travelers, and those in need. Do not waste your money. Be neither frugal nor prodigal.

Here are some rules for life. Do not kill children to avoid poverty. Commit no adultery. Do not murder, except by right. Never steal from orphans. Keep your promises. Do not stint in trade. (17:36) Discern what is true and do it; use your eyes, ears, and heart. Avoid strutting and arrogance. Do not imagine God has sons or daughters. The Qur'an puts things in different ways, so all can hear. Still, most ignore it. Everything that exists praises God. God keeps disbelievers from hearing; he seals their hearts. They will criticize Muhammad and ridicule resurrection. Tell them the day of reckoning comes soon. Defend God's revelation well. Satan confuses; he combats mankind. God will destroy every evil community; he keeps a ledger of deeds. Signs and wonders do not convince disbelievers.

They merely grow more insolent. Iblis refused God's command to bow down before man. God allows him to mislead some. God gives good results. When ill outcomes arrive, you pray to other gods. Even when God saves you, you indulge ingratitude. Disbelief tempts all. Still, God sends messengers. God never changes.

(17:78-81) Pray regularly: from noon to darkness, at dawn recite the Qur'an, at night wake up and pray. Ask God to make your actions right. Be confident in God. Of the spirit, tell people the spirit is God's, and they lack knowledge. Disbelievers demand signs and wonders. Tell them you are human and God's messenger boy. Disbelievers will be damned. The Jews received signs from God, but went on in disbelief. God gives the Qur'an in bits so Muhammad can recite it to the people. Do not pray loudly or quietly; seek moderation. God has no children, and needs no protector.

Sura 18. The Cave. In the name of merciful God. The Qur'an is entirely true, and warns of punishment for unbelievers and rewards to doers of good deeds. Angels are not God's children. The earth is beautiful; God will make it dust. The Sleepers in the Cave were faithful men. They fled their idolatrous peoples and hid in the cave. God caused them to sleep. When they woke, none knew how long they had slept. Some say they were in the cave asleep for 309 years. Only God knows for sure. Do not think you know what is coming. You do not know. (18:24) When you speak of plans, say "God willing." God rewards wrong-doers with fire and boiling water to drink. He rewards believers with a garden flowing with streams and soft chairs. A parable of two men and their gardens. Both were prolific, but one grew somewhat more than the other. The owner of the abundant garden said to himself that he made the garden prosper and the resurrection will never come. The other owner said he did nothing but what God gave him, and his neighbor may well find himself owner of a barren wasteland. God struck the boastful gardener's fruits. All withered. Only God deserves credit. Place none beside God. All that is will cease. You want money and babies. Better you should pursue good deeds. That pleases God. All will come before God, who keeps a complete record of every man's deeds. Iblis disobeyed God. He tempts men to take him as a partner to God. All will find fire and death. The Qur'an persuades, but men are contentious beings. God makes some unable to hear the Qur'an. God is merciful, but condemns those who do wrongs.

The story of Moses and the fish. Moses' fish swam away when he reached the two intersecting seas. There he found a man, who offered to teach Moses, if only Moses would wait until the teacher spoke before inquiring. The teacher doubted Moses' patience. Moses blurted about events, and was chastised for breaking his promise. The teacher explained the long-term outcome of his actions, while Moses dwelt on immediate judgment of each.

The travels of Dhu 'l-Qarnayn. In the west, Dhu 'l-Qarnayn found a people he condemned, and then east to another people. A third people were troubled by Gog and Magog. Dhu 'l-Qarnayn built an iron barrier between the enemies and the people. Dhu 'l-Qarnayn told the people even this fortification would be destroyed by God in his judgment. God will reject those who do good works but deny the resurrection. (18:190) Such people make fun of God's messages, and will be damned for it. Oceans of ink would be emptied telling God's words. Muhammad is to tell people he is only human.

Sura 19. Mary. In the name of merciful God. Zachariah's wife, who was barren, bore John in her old age, because God made it so. John was devout and obedient. Peace be upon him.

Mary spoke with God's messenger and bore a son without having sex. In childbirth, Mary cursed her life, but the baby encouraged her by talking. People cursed Mary for giving birth outside marriage. The infant said he is a prophet and full of grace from God. This is the story of Jesus. God has no children. God acts by fiat, without assistants.

Abraham corrected his own father when the old man worshipped idols. Abraham's father rebuked Abraham, so Abraham wished him well and departed the household. So, God blessed him with Isaac and Jacob, both prophets like their father.

Moses came close to God on the mountain, and Aaron the prophet was Moses' brother. Ishmael was also a prophet. Idris was also a prophet. Each of these several prophets wept when God spoke to them. Those who heed them will find paradise. Those who ignore them

will find evil returning to them in hell. (19:64) The angel Gabriel brings revelation to prophets when God commands such. God guides those who listen more and more. (19:76) God seeks good deeds of long impact from believers. Disbelievers assert that God has sons or daughters. None are God's peers; God stands alone. God destroys disbelieving peoples. They are silent from the grave.

Sura 20. Ta Ha. In the name of merciful God. The Qur'an is delivered to help believers. God spoke to Moses from a fire, telling him to take off his shoes. Keep praying and you will be rewarded. Do not let unbelievers distract you. God made Moses' staff a snake. God made Moses' hand white when taken from his armpit. Moses asked to be made eloquent and to have Aaron as a helper. God moved Moses' mother to put him as a baby on the river. God saved Moses when Moses killed a man. God sent Moses to Pharaoh. Pharaoh disbelieved, despite God's signs. Pharaoh's sorcerers made sticks wiggle, but Moses' staff consumed them. The sorcerers believed. Unbelievers will rise to torment, neither living nor dying. Believers will have gardens of perpetual bliss. God made a path through the sea for the people, which waters swallowed pursuing Pharaoh. The Israelis melted their jewelry, and made a golden calf to worship. Moses castigated Aaron; they ground up the calf and tossed it in the ocean. God gives the Qur'an to warn people about the result of disobedience. God will grind unbelievers to dust on the day of judgment. (20:113) The Qur'an is given in the Arabic tongue, and is full of warnings best heeded.

God warned Adam about Iblis, but Adam and Eve wanted power and immortality. So, they were banished and became enemies. Adam repented and God guided him. But avoid disobedience. Celebrate God before dawn and after sunset, at night and at the beginning and end of each day. God will make you contented. So, pray. Do not let disbelievers distract you.

Sura 21. The Prophets. In the name of merciful God. Unbelievers hear God's revelation playfully, with frivolity. They accuse Muhammad of making it up, of babbling dreams, of writing poetry. Unbelievers want signs. Muhammad is just a man like all prophets. (21:16-17) God did not create frivolously. God could have made up a better hobby. God has no offspring. Prophets speak by God's command, not in their own right. God tore heaven from earth, made all creatures from water, placed mountains and the heavens, fashioned day and night, sun and moon. Every man dies. All men are resurrected. Men are hasty; God works in his own time. God will judge all perfectly. Unbelievers will be astonished at its rapidity. Unbelievers mock prophets, but they are overwhelmed in the end. God gave Moses and Aaron scripture. God directed Abraham. People scoffed at God, preferring their idols. They sought to harm Abraham and Lot, but failed. God saved Noah. David and Solomon had psalms; Solomon had good judgment. So also, Job, Ishmael, Idris, Dhu'l-Kifl, and the man with the whale. Zachariah called upon God, and received John. Unbelievers will be faggots for hellfire. Believers will have what their souls desire. God will shut down this world and recreate it as on the first day. God promises this. Muhammad should tell people that God is one god. No man knows when God's day will arrive.

Sura 22. The Pilgrimage. In the name of merciful God. God has all power. He will shake the earth, judge every person, resurrect all. God made every person and will judge each. Indecision does not pass divine muster. Choose God and do well by others; God will bless. The Qur'an is God's message to you. God will judge all, including Christians and Jews, on the Day of Resurrection. (22:19-22) God will give disbelievers burning clothes, scalding baths, melted skin, iron restraints. Writhing, God will admonish them to taste their suffering. Silk and cool streams and valuable jewelry await the faithful. God will punish those who keep others from the Sacred Mosque. Find me no partners. Travel to Mecca. Feed the poor from what God provides. Do the sacred ablutions. Livestock are good; avoid idolatrous sacrifices. Give good news to the poor, who worship God and pray and give to others. Camels have sacred uses. After you sacrifice them, eat well and be thankful. (22:37) It is piety, not the camel, who reaches God. Give good news to do-gooders. (22:39) Believers may defend themselves only when attacked. For those who disbelieve, after a time, God

destroys them. Some want demonstrations. God's time is not your time. In the end, all return to God. Satan distorts the message of God's prophets. But God gives knowledge to those whom he pleases. God is the truth; all else is falsehood. Despite God's greatness, many remain ungrateful. God chooses human and angelic messengers. He knows all. So, strive for God. Be devoted (that is, Muslims). Pray. Give alms. God will protect.

Sura 23. The Believers. In the name of merciful God. The faithful pray in humility, are serious, give alms, stay sexually restrained, keep promises, pray; they get Paradise. God made man from clay; man became a drop of fluid, then a thing that clings, then a lump, then bones, then flesh and bones in several forms. Seven levels exist about the human. God commanded Noah, but his neighbors ridiculed and rejected him. God has raised other prophets. People claim they are just men, and should not be followed. They ridicule resurrection, saying "We die, we live; that is it." Evildoers are scum; away with them. Every prophet is called a liar and disbelieved. Moses and Aaron defeated Pharaoh and received the scripture. So, leave disbelievers in their ignorance. Arrogantly, disbelievers make fun of the Qur'an. God has done wonders; will you ignore all of that? When disbelievers are judged, they will see and seek forgiveness. But it will be too late for them. God is most merciful.

Sura 24. Light. In the name of merciful God. Lash fornicators one hundred times. Lash false witnesses eighty times; four collaborative witnesses are required to sustain a claim. There shall be no punishment for a wife accused of adultery by her husband without witnesses if she overcomes her spouse's claims by announcing four times that he lies, and calls on God to reject her if she lies. Some accused the Prophet's wife of unfaithfulness. If they cannot produce four witnesses, they lie. If you are rich, give to your kin. Forgive their inanities, as God does yours. Do not enter others' houses without permission. Just walk away. Avoid accusations of theft. All should lower their eyes and protect their private parts. (24:31) Women should not display feminine charms to men outside the extended family. Free slaves who wish to pay for freedom; be generous to them. Do not force slave-girls into prostitution. God is an inextinguishable light for those he chooses. The doer of good deeds, undistracted, sees. The disbeliever thinks he sees, but it is mirage. God made everything as he pleases. The wonder of creation proclaims God. Obey God; obey his messenger. Slaves and children should pray three times daily: at dawn, at midday, and in the evening. God permits old women who lack sexual desire to remove their outer garments. It would be best, however, if they did not. You may eat with the blind, lame, and sick, with friends and family.

Sura 25. The Differentiator. In the name of merciful God. God sent the Qur'an to warn people. God controls all. Disbelievers take mere things as gods. Disbelievers criticize Muhammad, saying he lies, or repeats old fables, or is just a poor man whom God does not help, or is possessed. Disbelievers will suffer perpetual blazing fire. God will ask their gods if they led men astray. Those little gods will betray the men they deluded. God describes judgment and hell. Muhammad complains that people treat the Qur'an with disrespect, and they protest that the Qur'an did not arrive all at once, but gradually. God recalls Moses and Aaron, Noah, and reminds Muhammad of those God has destroyed. (25:50) God repeats himself because people have not yet listened. God encourages Muhammad to contend with disbelievers. Servants of God are humble, and return peace to those who berate them. They repent, believe, and do good deeds. God forgives them.

Sura 26. The Poets. In the name of merciful God. God encourages Muhammad not to worry about critics. Moses worried. God gave him Aaron. Then Moses did signs for Pharaoh. Sorcerers did similar signs, but Moses prevailed and they worshipped God. Pharaoh threatened torture and crucifixion, but the sorcerers clung to God. Pharaoh pursued Israel in anger with his army. God parted the sea, and drowned Pharaoh and his army. Consider Abraham. He knew only those with hearts devoted to God will be saved. Disbelievers will endure hell, and bicker against one another. Consider Noah. Believers boarded his boat. The rest drowned. Consider Hud. His people insisted on doing what their fathers had done. They denounced Hud, and God destroyed them. Consider Salih. He called his people to God, but

they deemed him possessed. Salih told them a parable of drinking camels. They hamstringed the camel. God destroyed them all. Consider Lot. Lot condemned their homosexuality. His people threatened Lot. God saved Lot and his family (except for one old woman), and rained destruction upon the remainder. Consider Shu'ayb. His people called him a liar. They will be condemned. (26:195) The Qur'an comes from God; it is a clear warning in Arabic. The Jews recognize the Qur'an. No jinn brought the Qur'an. Jinn cannot even hear its words. People satirize the Qur'an, and criticize it as poetry. Such people do not do what they say. They will get their just reward.

Sura 27. The Ants. In the name of merciful God. The Qur'an guides and encourages believers. Disbelievers wander, guided by what allures them. They will suffer. Moses stood near God's fire. His staff writhed like a snake. God turned Moses' hand white. But Pharaoh call Moses' abilities sorcery. David and Solomon ruled. When Solomon succeeded David, Solomon reviewed his subjects. The ants went home so none crushed them underfoot. The hoopoe bird reported to Solomon of Queen Sheba, who worshipped the sun. Solomon sent her a letter. Sheba contemplates war, but sent Solomon a gift instead. The gift angered Solomon, who threatened war. One of Solomon's jinn brought Sheba's throne to Solomon. When Sheba arrived, she was amazed and worshipped God. Salih questioned the Thamud people's civil war. Nine bad men wanted to attack Salih, but God's plan prevailed. The Thamud were extinguished. God sent Lot to condemn his people's homosexual practices. God destroyed Lot's people, except for Lot's family, by rain. Only Lot's wife died. God created all and every event. None is like him, nor beside him. The Lord gives much, but most are ungrateful. The Qur'an settles the Jews' disputes among themselves. God gives clear signs, but most never heed. On the day of the trumpet, mountains will float and all will suffer terror, except those with good deeds to offer. God sees all you do.

Sura 28. The Story. In the name of merciful God. The scripture makes things clear. Pharaoh oppressed people, but God favored the oppressed. Moses' mother was commanded to release the infant to the Nile, but God brought Moses back to her. Moses killed one assaulting a Jew. When authorities found out, Moses fled to Midian. There he worked for wife. While traveling, Moses saw a fire on a mountain. Investigating, it proved to be God. Moses' staff writhed like a snake. His hand turned white. God gave Aaron to speak for Moses. But Pharaoh rejected the signs as mere tricks. Pharaoh orders a tall building so he too can go up to God. God threw Pharaoh and his armies into the sea. Muhammad was not present when Moses or other prophets received their messages from God. (28:46) But Muhammad is the man sent to the Arab peoples to give warning, to make them take heed. God destroys only evildoing peoples who have rejected his message. On the day of resurrection, God will demand to see all those people placed alongside God as their gods. None will come forth. All will then repent, but it will be too late. None but God brings day or night, understanding or ignorance. Corah received knowledge from God, but boasted of it. God made the earth swallow him. Home in the hereafter belongs to humble men who avoid corruption because they are mindful of God. Even Muhammad could not expect the revelation to come to him. It is a gift. Only God endures, ultimately. All returns to God.

Sura 29. The Spider. In the name of merciful God. God will test those who claim faith. Obey parents, unless they tempt you to lesser gods. God judges all on the day of resurrection. God sent Noah. Also Abraham. Both condemned their idolatrous contemporaries, to no avail. Abraham's people tried to execute him. God prevented that. God destroyed Lot's community, sparing Lot's family, except his wife. God sent Shy'ayb to the Midianites. An earthquake destroyed Midian. Peoples who take others than God build houses like spiders. None is more flimsy. So, Muhammad, keep praying. Prayer thwarts outrageous behaviors. The Qur'an induces some to believe. The defiant cling to their disbelief. Worship God alone. God knows all and judges every man justly. Only unreasonable men reject all the signs God gives. God sides with people who do good deeds.

Sura 30. The Byzantines. In the name of merciful God. The Byzantines were defeated. They will reverse that outcome. God helps whom he pleases. Most people have a facile grip on life, and think nothing of what is to come. God punishes those who mock his revelation. Celebrate God in the morning, evening, late afternoon, and midday. These are signs from God: loving spouses, diverse languages, colors, sleep, lightning, rain, firm land, and birth. Reasonable men see God in these signs. Right religion is to turn to God alone, without assigning partners to him, and to avoid sectarian divisions. God approves those who give to relatives, needy people, and travelers. Be charitable with your money. God gives signs: winds for ships' sails, clouds and rain. God gives the infant weakness, the adult power, and then takes it back in old age. God rules all. Do not allow disbelievers to discourage you.

Sura 31. Luqman. In the name of merciful God. Some do good and prosper. Others mislead and ridicule God's commands. Those will suffer. God gave Luqman wisdom. He commanded his sons to place none alongside God. Be good to your parents. Luqman taught his children that God knows all, even minute things. Endure your suffering. Pray. Do not permit wrong actions. Avoid arrogance. Lower your voice, so you will not bray like an ass. Do not hurry. Devote yourself to God. His wisdom is boundless. If oceans were ink, all God's insights could not be penned. God governs the universe. None beside him deserve praise. None knows when a man will die, except God.

Sura 32. Bowing Down in Worship. People accuse Muhammad of fabricating the Qur'an. It is not so. It comes from God directly. God created in six days. His judgment will seem to men 1,000 years. (32:5-9) God fashioned man from clay, and breathed spirit into him. Believers who do good will have gardens. Those who defy God will have fire. These two are not equal; God has a preference. God gave scripture to Moses also. God has destroyed many. Take the lesson.

Sura 33. The Joint Forces. In the name of merciful God. Muhammad should resist disbelievers. Name adoptive sons after their fathers, if known. Muhammad's wives are the mothers of all believers. When great armies mass against believers, God sees. God sends violent winds and unknown forces against them. Disbelievers will quail and whine, Where is God? in the face of so many soldiers. God gives both victories and defeats. None resists God. God makes trials of men's faith, to sort the honest from the hypocrite. Muhammad offers to release any of his wives who wish earthly goods. The Prophet's wives will be doubly punished for misdeeds, since they hold a special place before God. Believers are obedient, truthful, steadfast, humble, charitable, fasting, chaste, and mindful of God. They will be rewarded. Do not marry and divorce without making provision for the former wife, claiming no coitus occurred. God gives commands to Muhammad about the conditions under which he may marry wives. None should linger in Muhammad's house, waiting for a meal. None may marry Muhammad's wives after they leave Muhammad. Women are to wear outer garments that hang low. Tell people the hour of judgment may be near. None knows, except God.

Sura 34. Sheba. In the name of merciful God. God knows all and keeps records. He rewards believers and punishes disbelievers. God softened iron for David. God gave Solomon a jinn to make fancy brass accoutrements. God flooded away the Shebans' gardens, and replaced them with brambles. Prayers only work with God when he gives permission for them. Disbelievers blame one another for their disbelief. They defame the Qur'an. They defame God's prophet. They will suffer terror.

Sura 35. The Creator. In the name of merciful God. God made all, including various angels. He has all power, adding or subtracting what he wishes. As people called previous prophets liars, so they now treat Muhammad. Satan deceives people into forsaking God. The resurrection will be like rains on a parched land. God governs oceans and the heavens. No man stands before God for another. All bear their own loads. God warns every community with their own prophet. The Qur'an comes from God, and confirms previous scriptures of other prophets. Those who do good deeds will be honored with an everlasting home. Those

who reject truth will cry from hell. God knows all, even what is hidden. None are his peers. God keeps everything from vanishing. If God punished all wrongs as they occur, none would survive. God forbears, waiting for good deeds and faith.

Sura 36. *Ya Sin.* In the name of merciful God. Muhammad was sent to the Arabs because they previously had no prophet. Many ignore God, despite his warnings. Remind them of the people to whom God sent three messengers. Those people denied the messengers were prophets, called them evil, and threatened to stone them. A man came running from the suburbs, confirming the men as prophets. That man was rewarded with eternal gardens. God killed all the others. People ridicule prophets. God made the whole world from lifelessness, full of good things. Still, most doubt. When the trumpet sounds, all the dead will rush from their graves to God. Then God compensates each for his deeds. God rewards believers. God punishes disbelievers. The Qur'an sheds light for all. Disbelievers take for themselves gods other than God.

Sura 37. *Ranged in Rows.* In the name of merciful God. God made angels, and prevents devils from eavesdropping on their councils. Disbelievers scoff, though God made them from sticky stuff. They ridicule and accuse Muhammad of sorcery. They cling to ancestral gods, and call Muhammad a demented poet. They will be punished. Believers will sit together in gardens, drinking spring water with their beautiful wives. Believers look for friends, and see them in the fire of hell. The damned disbelievers will eat from the tree growing in the midst of fire, drink boiling mixtures, and then return to fire. Noah called on God and was saved. Abraham did the same. Abraham criticized carved idols, and was threatened. God gave Abraham a son, and God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. God intervened to prevent the killing. God helped Moses and Aaron and the Israelis. God guided them. Elijah condemned Baal. God rewarded Elijah. Lot and Jonah were also God's messengers. Disbelievers say many confused things about God. Angels know better. They are set out in ranks of great order. God commands Muhammad to turn away from the disbelievers for a while, so they can see their errors.

Sura 38. *Saad.* In the name of merciful God. The Qur'an reminds over and over. God destroys disbelievers. They criticize Muhammad and doubt God's warnings. Disbelievers have always rejected their prophets. God strengthened David, who praised God. But David took from another what was the other's, despite having plenty himself. David repented, and God forgave. Solomon too erred, then repented. God gave Solomon power over jinn and winds. Job turned to God, despite adversity. So too, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as well as Ishmael, Elisha, and Dhu'l-Kifl. The devout will have gardens and suitable modest wives. Those who do evil will have hell and torments. Muhammad merely warns the people. God made man, and commanded angels to bow down before man. Iblis refused, so God damned him, but left Iblis to tempt men until the final day.

Sura 39. *The Throngs.* In the name of merciful God. God sends scripture. Do not believe those who worship others, with the many deceptions. God made you from a single person, woman from that one. He gave four sorts of livestock. He governs even the mother's womb. Ingratitude displeases God. God rewards those who do good patiently. He makes layers of fire for those who disobey. Fear God. Consider the annual cycle of vegetation. God rains, plants grow, then wither, crumbling to dust. This is a reminder. God has sent a scripture that makes the skin of believers quiver and hearts soften. (39:28) The Qur'an is Arabic, free from distortion. So be mindful. Muhammad will die; so will all others. God will judge. God decides when people die. No rich evil-doer will be able to ransom himself. Unbelievers attribute their good fortune to their own skills. God is testing them. They fail. All these are signs. God forgives all repented sins. On the day of judgment, God will strike all disbelievers dead, then raise them. The record will be opened; all witnesses will be brought to testify. God will judge fairly and repay every soul in full for his deeds. Disbelievers will suffer Hell. God will reward believers with peace in heaven. They will worship in God's glory.

Sura 40. The Forgiver. In the name of merciful God. Scripture comes from God; only disbelievers dispute it. God punishes disbelievers and rewards the families of believers. God sends revelations to those whom he will. The Day of Judgment approaches. God sent Moses to Pharaoh. God sent Noah. God lets wicked men do loathsome things, which damns the hearts of tyrants. Life is but a moment; one's home is with God, which life lasts forever. God will never hear the pleas of disbelievers. When punished by fire, disbelievers will beg for relief, but none will be given. They had their prophets. God created all; man is less than that. God formed man, and gave him good things. There is no god but God. Disbelievers cherish falsehoods and cavort with abandon. The arrogant find a home in hell.

Sura 41. [Verses] Made Clear. In the name of merciful God. The Qur'an issues clear instruction and warning in Arabic. Unbelievers suffer a barrier between them and God. God created all by his own hand. God punishes disbelievers; fire will be their home and their skins will complain. They ignore the Qur'an. Good is better than evil. God sees all. The Qur'an is untouched by falsehood. God judges human deeds justly.

Sura 42. Consultations. In the name of merciful God. Muhammad is not responsible for unbelievers. God watches them. God made all things. The commandment for believers is Noah's and Abraham's and Moses' and Jesus' commandment: keep faith and do not make factions among the people. God acts subtly. He provides as he will. God increases the good men do. All creation reveals God. Life is brief; heaven is eternal. So, avoid great sins, forgive, seek God, keep friendly relations, give freely, defend the oppressed. Do not oppose those who defend themselves, but oppose oppressors. They who sin will suffer permanently. Normal people do not speak directly with God. Rely on Muhammad and the Qur'an.

Sura 43. Ornaments of Gold. In the name of merciful God. The Arabic Qur'an is given so men may understand. Still, people have mocked all of God's former prophets. The Meccans think God has taken female angels as his daughters. They know nothing. Abraham worshipped only the god who created him. God sometimes gives sinners wealth in this life, but he reserves the next life for the obedient. Pharaoh refused Moses. The people ignored Jesus. Christian factions disputed, failing to hear God. God hears and records everything men say. If there were sons of God, Muhammad would worship them. None exist.

Sura 44. Smoke. In the name of merciful God. God sent the scriptures, yet some take nothing seriously. The Day of smoke comes, and people will find sudden faith. It will not help them. Pharaoh was warned, but persisted. God saved Israel. Arabs deny the resurrection. On the Day, every man will be judged for his own sins. Molten metal will scald unbelievers' bellies. Believers will inhabit a garden mated with young women of beautiful eyes. (44:54) The Qur'an is in Arabic so you can understand.

Sura 45. Kneeling. In the name of merciful God. Scripture comes from God. All creation contains signs for believers. Torment awaits disbelievers. God returns good for good, evil for evil. God chose Israel, but they bickered. God will straighten them out on the Day. God created in order to reward according to a man's deeds. God will also judge communities according to their actions. None can make amends once the Day arrives.

Sura 46. The Sand Dunes. In the name of merciful God. Scripture is from God. Those who call on others could not be more wrong. They claim Muhammad's plain warnings are inventions or sorcery or fictions or fables. The Qur'an confirms what God previously said in the Hebrew scriptures. (46:12) When a man reaches forty years, he turns to God and reveres his parents. God sees the best of what such men do, and ignores the bad. (46:16) God punishes the arrogant. The ancient tribe of Hud, more ancient than Mecca, suffered judgment; all were destroyed. Even angels heed the Qur'an; it confirms previous scriptures and guides truly. God destroys the defiant.

Sura 47. Muhammad. In the name of merciful God. God defeats unbelievers who keep others from God's way, and rewards the faithful doer of good deeds who revere Muhammad. God sends his people to war to test them. Those who die shall be eternally rewarded, and those who fight shall find their courage. Even unbelievers who appear to prosper will be struck down by fire. Muhammad describes the rivers of water, milk, wine, and honey in heaven, and the gut-tearing boiling water of hell. (47:14-15) Some refuse to fight when God commands it, complaining that they will be killing relatives. These are condemned. All must fight when God commands fighting. God's armies will prevail. For they belong to God. This life is a mere game; your losses here God will make good. (47:36) If these people refuse to fight, God will condemn them and turn to another people.

Sura 48. Triumph. In the name of merciful God. God is giving Muhammad victory. He will punish disbelievers and reward believers. Some say good words, but hide evil intentions. Those who join Muhammad's army will prosper; those who decline will suffer. Believers who fight with Muhammad have tender feelings for one another. As the Torah and gospel say, they are seeds that grow great and strong. (48:29).

Sura 49. The Private Rooms. In the name of merciful God. Show respect to Muhammad; keep your voices low in his presence. God makes faith blossom in the heart of believers. Believers should not fight one another, and if they do, other believers should subdue them and make an equitable peace. (49:9-10) Those who make peace will be shown mercy. Avoid spying and gossip. God made human diversity from a single couple, for the purpose of letting humans get to know one another. (49:13) Tell the desert Arabs, first one submits, then God grants faith. True believers struggle with their person and possessions as God asks.

Sura 50. Qaaf. In the name of merciful God. Disbelievers ridicule the resurrection, that once dust, every man shall be reconstituted, a second creation. A trumpet will sound, and an angel will be assigned to every person. Disbelievers will be ushered to hell, believers to paradise. God has warned all amply. Muhammad should not force people, but merely remind them with the Qur'an.

Sura 51. Scattering [Winds]. In the name of merciful God. Judgment comes from the sky. The righteous will dwell in gardens. The deceived will suffer. Muhammad tells of Sarah's promise to bear, and of Sodom's destruction. There are also signs in Moses, in 'Ad, in Thamud, and in Noah. Most call prophets sorcerers or madmen. God created man and jinn for the sole purpose of worshipping him. (51:56) Offer no foods; God is not hungry, but rather provides for man's needs.

Sura 52. The Mountain. In the name of merciful God. Earth-shattering judgment comes. For believers, however, goodness awaits: foods, maidens, comfortable seats, virtue, servants, long lost relatives. To each according to his deserts. Disbelievers deceive themselves. God exceeds their imaginations. Muhammad is to wait, worshipping God. God will recompense.

Sura 53. The Star. In the name of merciful God. An angel revealed the Qur'an to Muhammad. God has neither daughters nor sons. Disbelievers give angels female names. They guess, and are wrong. Every man shall have what his deeds warrant. Judgment draws near. Worship.

Sura 54. The Moon. In the name of merciful God. During judgment, the moon will split. Noah's contemporaries and Lot's, Pharaoh, 'Ad, Thamud: all scoffed at prophets. All died. Will any learn from the Qur'an? Disbelievers are insane. Disbelievers have been destroyed in the past. Is anyone paying attention? Every act is known and recorded.

Sura 55. The Lord of Mercy. In the name of merciful God. Allah teaches man in the Qur'an. God put all things in their order. Man should not upset the balance. All men die. Only God perseveres. God rewards the faithful, despite their trials. There will be virgins (55:56),

gardens, fruit. Heaven has two levels, as does hell. (55:62) God punishes the wicked. Do you deny this?

Sura 56. That Which is Coming. In the name of merciful God. In judgment, God sorts men into three categories. Those in front win gardens of bliss. A step down, those on the right will have paradise as well, with virgins and water and foods. Those on the left, however, dwell in smoke, hot winds, and boiling water. God judges, and demands belief. God makes your semen, your harvests, your water, your wood. The Qur'an is a record from God.

Sura 57. Iron. In the name of merciful God. God is first and last. Everything comes from and returns to him. Give from what God has given you for God's purposes. In judgment, God accepts no excuses. If you were deceived, you will lose. God resurrects all to judgment. This earthly life is only a game, a race for wealth and progeny. It deludes. God sends miseries and successes. Do not gloat. Be generous. Your wealth is not your own. God sent Abraham and Noah and Jesus to speak. But Christians, contrary to God, invented monasticism. (57:27) The Jews and Christians do not control God. He is his own.

Sura 58. The Dispute. In the name of merciful God. Muhammad rejects a cruel form of divorce, and specifies penance for those who wish to undo their divorces. The penances show that God is forgiving with sin, and wants men to have faith. Those who ignore God's rules will be sorely punished. God is in every secret conversation among men. Secret conversations are evil, except when one is mindful of God. Evil men hide their ill deeds by lies. Men who love God do not love those who oppose God, even though these disbelievers may be parents, children, or other relatives. (58:22)

Sura 59. The Gathering [of Forces]. In the name of merciful God. All creation glorifies God. Those who oppose God will be sorely punished by God. Muhammad distributes battle booty, so the poor get some as well as the rich. Some say they will flee with Christians and Jews, if the Muslims descend upon them in war. They lie. They fear believers more than they fear God. God sees all. He punishes and rewards equitably. Only God is God. There are no others.

Sura 60. The Woman Tested. In the name of merciful God. Make no alliances with unbelievers. All such want you to renounce faith. God judges every man individually, according to his deeds. God may make friendship between you and your enemies, for God is powerful. Deal kindly with those who do not oppose the faithful, even if they do not join them. If enemy women evidence faith, their former relationships are null. Pay the bride price and marry them. Reject unbelieving women of your own tribes. But take in faithful women from every origin.

Sura 61. Solid Lines. In the name of merciful God. Say what you will do, and do what you say. God hates those who do otherwise. God sent Moses. God sent Jesus. God sent Muhammad, with a religion above all others, though idol-lovers will not admit it. Seize faith; struggle for God's view of things. You will prosper, now and in paradise. God supports those with faith.

Sura 62. The Day of Congregation. In the name of merciful God. God sent the Qur'an to a people who had no scripture. People who have the Torah, but do not obey it, are asses with books. Jews are not alone in God's favor. When it is time to pray, stop what you are doing and pray. Then go back to making a living or what entertains you. God provides.

Sura 63. The Hypocrites. In the name of merciful God. Hypocrites claim God to hide their evils. They are paranoid, arrogant about their sins, and they plan insurrections. Do not let money and children distract you from God. Give freely from what God has given you.

Sura 64. Mutual Neglect. In the name of merciful God. God made all men; some believe, some do not. Disbelievers spurn God's messengers, not wanting instruction from mere mortals.

God sees. On the day of resurrection, everyone will neglect every other for fear of judgment. Gardens await those who acted well; fire comes for those who did not. Sad events strike only upon God's permission. Money and children are God's test of your mindfulness toward him. Hear, obey, and give.

Sura 65. Divorce. Coordinate divorce with the rules about waiting periods. Divorce before two witnesses. The waiting period for pre- and post-menstrual women is three months; for the pregnant, until the term of the pregnancy. Keep wives waiting to be divorced in the manner you yourself live. Beware of God. He will judge according to deeds. God created seven heavens and earths, with revelation between them.

Sura 66. Prohibition. In the name of merciful God. Muhammad should not make oaths to abstain. God has released Muhammad's oaths. Two wives of Muhammad gossiped. Muhammad confronted them to repent. Mary, mother of Jesus, was especially devout.

Sura 67. Control. In the name of merciful God. God is exalted. His creation has no cracks. God knows every heart. He makes the world accommodate mankind. Those who do not see his power are sorely deluded. They will be destroyed.

Sura 68. The Pen. In the name of merciful God. Opponents call Muhammad a madman, and seek compromise. Refuse them. Someone owned a rich garden. A storm destroyed it, and the owners kept out the poor. They castigated one another, and repented. God invites disbelievers to worship, but they refuse. So, Muhammad must wait patiently for God to act.

Sura 69. The Inevitable Hour. In the name of merciful God. God judges. The people of Thamud and 'Ad know. Pharaoh's people know. The trumpet will sound. Mountains will be crushed. Their sky will be torn. Angels will rally. Some will be granted heaven. Others will find the fire. The Qur'an is God's message. It is not poetry or a magical prediction. Though you may call the Qur'an a lie, it is truth.

Sura 70. The Ways of Ascent. In the name of merciful God. Disbelievers think judgment is distant, but it is near. Those who hoard wealth will be judged in a furious flame. Man is an anxious creature. He laments bad outcomes, then grows arrogant when good fortune comes. Believers give freely to beggars and the poor. Leave disbelievers to their idle talk. Judgment comes.

Sura 71. Noah. In the name of merciful God. Noah called all people, but they plugged their ears. The disbelievers followed men with wealth and children. God drowned them all. For that, Noah asked.

Sura 72. The Jinn. In the name of merciful God. Jinn, who are unseen beings, hear the Qur'an and believe. All know they can never escape God. All who reject God's message will be tortured.

Sura 73. Enfolded. In the name of merciful God. Muhammad should stay up nights to receive revelations. Nights have fewer distractions and duties. Muhammad is a messenger to the Arabs, just as Moses was to Pharaoh. At night, recite as much of the Qur'an as is easy. Keep praying. Give alms, which you may consider a loan to God.

Sura 74. Wrapped in His Cloak. In the name of merciful God. Even those God blessed with money and children will be struck down if they are hostile to the Qur'an. Nineteen angels guard hellfire. The number is a test. God judges every soul. Disbelievers demand personal revelations before they will relent. They shall have none.

Sura 75. The Resurrection. In the name of merciful God. God has all power and will resurrect all men. Muhammad should not hurry in memorizing the Qur'an. God controls

Muhammad's receipt of the revelations. Disbelievers swagger in their denial of truth. Judgment draws closer. Man was but spilt sperm. God judges.

Sura 76. Man. In the name of merciful God. God made humans from nothing. He gave them experience, and guided man, whether or not he was thankful for such. Disbelievers will suffer terribly; believers will be rewarded. So keep your promises, fear God's judgment, give to the needy. You will dwell in a Garden, clothed in silk, sitting in shade, served on silver platters, drinking from precious goblets, served by eternal youths. God sent the Qur'an so you could have such luxury, a gradual revelation. Glorify God. God chooses those whom he wishes.

Sura 77. [Winds] Sent Forth. In the name of merciful God. The terrible day of decision approaches. Do not deny the truth. Woe comes if you do. Smoke and fire come. Good comes to those who do good, following the truth. But woe follows evildoers.

Sura 78. The Announcement. In the name of merciful God. God made a wonderful world for man. Oppressors will taste a hell of scalding fluid for their rejection of God. The faithful will find gardens, wine, young maidens, and abundance. Disbelievers will wish they were dust.

Sura 79. The Forceful Chargers. In the name of merciful God. On the day of judgment, God will come like the vanguard of a cavalry assault. Pharaoh refused God's demands through Moses. Pharaoh came to nothing. Hell waits the disobedient. Paradise will be home to the obedient. Only God knows when comes the day.

Sura 80. He Frowned. In the name of merciful God. Muhammad should give little time to self-satisfied people, and focus on the eager ones. God makes life easy for man. God can do anything. Yet most are ungrateful. When judgment comes, every person will ignore their family, so pressing will be their own need.

Sura 81. The Rolling Up. In the name of merciful God. The world will be rolled up and hell and paradise brought near. The Qur'an is God's word. Muhammad is sane or possessed. God makes those whom he wishes to believe.

Sura 82. The Breaking. In the name of merciful God. God will upend the world. Each will see his own actions plainly. Good people will be blessed; evil will suffer fire. On the day, no one can do anything for another. Each stands before God.

Sura 83. Those Who Give Short Measure. In the name of merciful God. Some short others, but demand full measure for themselves. These will suffer. A man's deeds encrust his heart. God keeps a perfect record of deeds. The good find bliss. The evil, who ridiculed the obedient, find judgment.

Sura 84. The Cracking. In the name of merciful God. When God judges, believers will get their record in the right hand, while unbelievers will get theirs from behind the back. Every man will be resurrected. Pain waits those who reject the Qur'an.

Sura 85. The Towering Constellations. In the name of merciful God. Those who persecute believers will perish in fire. Believers will dwell in gardens. God does as he pleases. (85:21) This Qur'an is written on a preserved tablet.

Sura 86. The Night-Comer. In the name of merciful God. God will resurrect every man. The night comer watches over every person. Some scheme; so does God.

Sura 87. The Most High. In the name of merciful God. Muhammad is commanded to remind the people, if that helps them. Those wicked persons who ignore Muhammad will burn in fire, where they neither die nor live. The hereafter is better; yet, people prefer this life.

Sura 88. The Overwhelming Event. In the name of merciful God. The overwhelming event of judgment comes. Some will live in fire. Others will dwell blissfully in a fecund garden. Remind people, Muhammad. Do not try to control them. That is for God.

Sura 89. Daybreak. In the name of merciful God. Do not make oaths. Powerful rulers did so, and perished. Do not be easily swayed by prosperity or its lack. Honor orphans. Feed the poor. Avoid wealth. When God judges, you will lament that you made no provision for that day.

Sura 90. The City. In the name of merciful God. God created man to do deeds and be judged. Few attempt the steep path, which consists in freeing slaves, feeding orphans and poor persons, and to encourage steadfastness and compassion in others. Do so, and be in God's pleasures. Fail this, and perish in fire.

Sura 91. The Sun. In the name of merciful God. Inspired by creation, purify your soul. If you corrupt your soul, you will perish like Thamud, in which God's messenger sought to have his camel drink. They hamstringed the beast. God crushed Thamud utterly.

Sura 92. The Night. In the name of merciful God. The generous person finds ease. The miserly finds a great fall. Muhammad guides people. The wicked will burn. The pious will give away their money to purify themselves before God. That pleases God.

Sura 93. The Morning Brightness. In the name of merciful God. God has not abandoned Muhammad. God found Muhammad an orphan and cared for him. Welcome and shelter orphans. Help those seeking it. Remind them of God's blessings.

Sura 94. Relief. In the name of merciful God. Where Muhammad suffers hardship, he will find ease. Just ask.

Sura 95. The Fig. In the name of merciful God. God raised up Arabs, and brought them low. Do good deeds and God will judge fairly.

Sura 96. The Clinging Form. In the name of merciful God. God commands Muhammad to read. Men sin when they deem themselves self-sufficient. One commands Muhammad not to pray. Ignore him. Hands, head, knees, and toes on the ground; worship.

Sura 97. The Night of Glory. In the name of merciful God. On the night of glory, angels and the Spirit descend over and over, bringing peace.

Sura 98. Clear Evidence. In the name of merciful God. Among the people of the book, some disbelieve. They received scriptures, but fell to bickering. Commanded to worship, be devoted, pray, give alms, they did otherwise. They are a horror among humans. Believe and do good. God will reward you.

Sura 99. The Earthquake. In the name of merciful God. On the day of judgment, earthquakes will empty graves. The tiniest good will find reward; minuscule evils will be punished.

Sura 100. The Charging Steeds. In the name of merciful God. People neglect God in favor of love of money. Such will be judged.

Sura 101. The Crashing Blow. When the crashing blow arrives, good deeds will bring pleasing life, while little goodness will merit the bottomless pit of fire.

Sura 102. Competing for More. In the name of merciful God. Seeking excess distracts one from God. Such will be judged.

- Sura 103. The Fading Day.** In the name of merciful God. People suffer, unless they believe, do good, and encourage truth-seeking and faithfulness.
- Sura 104. The Backbiter.** In the name of merciful God. Gossipers think wealth makes them immortal. They will be crushed in God's fire.
- Sura 105. The Elephant.** In the name of merciful God. God defeated an army of elephants with birds dropping clay pellets.
- Sura 106. Quraysh.** In the name of merciful God. When the Quraysh do their bi-annual trade caravans, God provides for them.
- Sura 107. Common Kindness.** In the name of merciful God. Wicked people deny God's judgment, ignore orphans and the hungry. They pray without praying. They like ostentation and disparage kindness.
- Sura 108. Abundance.** In the name of merciful God. Muhammad should pray and sacrifice to God in thanks for abundance. He who hates Muhammad is cut off.
- Sura 109. The Disbelievers.** In the name of merciful God. To disbelievers say, Your religion is yours and mine mine, your god yours, my God mine. Neither of us will change.
- Sura 110. Help.** In the name of merciful God. When Muhammad sees droves of people embracing God, he should celebrate and seek forgiveness. God welcomes repentance.
- Sura 111. Palm Fibre.** In the name of merciful God. Abu Lahab and his wife, who tormented Muhammad, will be damned to the flames.
- Sura 112. Purity of Faith.** In the name of merciful God. God is one and eternal. For God, there is no begetting. None stands beside God.
- Sura 113. Daybreak.** In the name of merciful God. Seek God's protection against night harms and witchcraft and those who envy.
- Sura 114. People.** In the name of merciful God. Seek the protection of the God of people against gossipers, both human and supernatural.