

‘This is from God. God provides for whoever He wills without measure.’³⁸ Thereupon Zachariah prayed to his Lord, saying, ‘Lord, grant me by Your own grace virtuous offspring. You are the hearer of all prayers.’³⁹ As he stood praying in the chamber, the angels called out to him, saying, ‘God gives you the good news of John, who shall confirm the Word from God, and [shall be] outstanding among men, and utterly chaste, and a prophet from among the righteous.’⁴⁰ ‘Lord,’ said Zachariah, ‘how shall I have a son when I am now overtaken by old age and my wife is barren?’ ‘Such is the will of God,’ replied [the angel], ‘He does what He pleases.’⁴¹ He said, ‘My Lord, grant me a sign.’ [The angel] said, ‘Your sign is that you will not be able to speak to people for three days except by signs. Remember your Lord much and glorify Him morning and evening.’⁴² The angels said, ‘Mary, God has selected you and purified you. He has selected

you over [all] the women of your time.’⁴³ O Mary! Remain truly devout to your Sustainer, and prostrate yourself in worship, and bow down with those who bow down [before Him].’⁴⁴ This is an account of the unseen, which We reveal to you. You were not with them when they drew lots as to which of them should be Mary’s guardian and you were not with them when they disputed with one another.

⁴⁵ When the angels said, ‘O Mary, your Lord gives you good news of a Word from Him. His name is the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, honoured in this world and in the next and one of those who are granted nearness to God.

⁴⁶ And he shall speak to men in his cradle, and as a grown man, and shall be one of the righteous.’

⁴⁷ ‘Lord,’ she said, ‘how can I have a child when no man has touched me?’ [The angel] replied, ‘Thus it is: God creates what He wills: when He wills a thing He need only say, “Be,” and it is.

⁴⁸ God will instruct him in the Book and in wisdom and in the

Torah and in the Gospel.⁴⁹ He will make him a messenger to the Children of Israel. He will say: "I have come to you with a sign from your Lord. I will make the shape of a bird out of clay for you and then breathe into it and, by God's leave, it will become a living bird. And by God's leave I will heal the blind and the leper and bring the dead to life. I will tell you what you may eat and what to store up in your homes. Surely in this there is a sign for you, if you are believers."⁵⁰ I come to fulfill [the prediction] of the Torah which preceded me and to make lawful for you some of what was forbidden to you and I come to you with a sign from your Lord. So fear God and obey me.⁵¹ God is my Lord and your Lord, so worship Him. That is the straight path."⁵²

⁵² When Jesus perceived their denial, he said, "Who will be my helpers in God's cause?" The disciples said, "We are God's helpers, we believe in God. Bear witness that we have surrendered ourselves."⁵³ Our Lord, we

believe in what You have sent down and we follow the messenger, so count us among those who bear witness."⁵⁴ And they schemed but God also schemed and God is the Best of Schemers.⁵⁵ God said, "O Jesus, I shall cause you to die and will raise you up to Me and shall clear you [of the calumnies] of the disbelievers, and shall place those who follow you above those who deny the truth, until the Day of Judgement; then to Me shall all return and I will judge between you regarding your disputes."⁵⁶ Those who deny the truth shall be sternly punished in this world and in the world to come: there shall be none to help them."⁵⁷ As for those who have believed and do good works, they shall be given their reward in full. God does not love evil-doers.⁵⁸ This which We recite to you is a revelation and a wise reminder.

⁵⁹ Jesus in the sight of God is like Adam. He created him from dust; then said to him, "Be!" and he was.⁶⁰ This is the truth from

their Lord, and Gardens with rivers flowing through them, where they will abide forever. How excellent will be the reward of those who do good works.

¹³⁷ There are many examples [of the communities] that have passed away before you: travel through the land, and see what was the end of those who rejected the Truth. ¹³⁸ This Quran is an exposition for the people and a guidance and admonition for those who fear God.

¹³⁹ And do not become faint of heart, nor grieve—you will have the upper hand, if you are believers—¹⁴⁰ if you have suffered a wound, they too have suffered a similar wound. We bring these days to men by turns, so that God may know those who believe, and choose witnesses from among you; and God does not love the unjust, ¹⁴¹ so that God may purge those who believe and wipe out those who deny the truth. ¹⁴² Do you suppose that you would enter the Garden, without God knowing those among you who would

strive hard for His cause and endure with fortitude? ¹⁴³ You were longing for death, before you met it. Now you have seen it with your own eyes.

¹⁴⁴ Muhammad is only a messenger. Messengers have passed away before him. If he should die, or be killed, will you turn back on your heels? Those who turn on their heels do not harm the Lord in the least. God will reward the grateful. ¹⁴⁵ No soul shall die except with God's permission and at an appointed time. And if one desires the rewards of this world, We shall grant it to him; and if one desires the rewards of the life to come, We shall grant it to him. We will reward the grateful. ¹⁴⁶ How many a prophet has fought with many devout men alongside him! They did not lose heart, despite all that they had to suffer in God's path. They neither weakened nor yielded. God loves the patient! ¹⁴⁷ All they said was, 'Our Lord, forgive us our sins and our excesses. Make our feet firm, and help us against those

to those—We shall surely give them their rewards. God is most forgiving and merciful.

¹⁵³ The People of the Book ask you to bring down for them a book from heaven. Of Moses they demanded a greater thing than that. They said to him: ‘Show us God face to face.’ A thunderbolt struck them for their wickedness. After that, they took to worshipping the [golden] calf, after all evidence of the truth had come to them! Yet We pardoned even that and bestowed on Moses clear authority. ¹⁵⁴ And We raised above them the Mount, while making a covenant with them, and We said to them. ‘Enter the gate humbly,’ and We also commanded them, ‘Transgress not in the matter of the Sabbath.’ We took from them a firm covenant.

¹⁵⁵ But they broke their covenant; and they rejected the signs of God; and put the prophets to death without justification, and said, ‘Our hearts are sealed.’ It is God who has sealed their hearts, on

account of their denial of the truth. Except for a few of them, they have no faith. ¹⁵⁶ They denied the truth and uttered a monstrous slander against Mary. ¹⁵⁷ They declared, ‘We have put to death the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, the Messenger of God.’ They did not kill him, nor did they crucify him, but it only seemed to them [as if it had been so]. And those who differ in this matter are in doubt concerning it. They have no definite knowledge about it, but only follow mere conjecture. But they certainly did not kill him. ¹⁵⁸ God raised him towards Himself. God is almighty and wise.

¹⁵⁹ There is none among the People of the Book but will believe in it before his death; and on the Day of Resurrection he shall be a witness against them.

¹⁶⁰ Because of the wrongdoings of the Jews, We forbade them certain good things that had been allowed to them before; for having frequently debarred others from God’s path; ¹⁶¹ for taking usury, when they had been

light. By it the prophets who were obedient to Us judged the Jews, and so did the rabbis and the priests, according to God's Book which had been entrusted to their care; and to which they were witnesses. Have no fear of man; fear Me, and do not sell My revelations for a paltry sum. Those who do not judge by what God has sent down are deniers of truth. ⁴⁵ We prescribed for them in [the Torah]: a life for a life, an eye for an eye, a nose for a nose, an ear for an ear, a tooth for a tooth, and a wound for a wound. But, if anyone forgoes it, this shall be for him an expiation. Those who do not judge by what God has sent down are wrongdoers! ⁴⁶ We caused Jesus, son of Mary to follow in their footsteps, fulfilling what had been revealed before him in the Torah. We gave him the Gospel, which contained guidance and light, fulfilling what was revealed before it in the Torah: a guide and an admonition to the God-fearing. ⁴⁷ Therefore, let those who follow the Gospel judge

according to what God has revealed in it. Those who do not judge by what God has sent down are rebellious.

⁴⁸ We have sent down the Book to you with the truth, fulfilling [the predictions] revealed in the previous scriptures and determining what is true therein, and as a guardian over it. Judge, therefore, between them by what God has revealed, and do not follow their vain desires turning away from the truth that has come to you. To every one of you We have ordained a law and a way, and had God so willed, He would have made you all a single community, but He did not so will, in order that He might try you by what He has given you. Vie, then, with one another in doing good works; to God you shall all return; then He will make clear to you about what you have been disputing.

⁴⁹ Judge between them by what God has sent down and do not be led by their desires. Beware of them lest they turn you away from a part of that what God has revealed to you. If they reject your judgement, know that God

as I have never meted out to anyone else in the world.’

¹¹⁶ When God says, ‘Jesus, son of Mary, did you say to people, “Take me and my mother as two deities besides God”?’ He will answer, ‘Glory be to You! How could I ever say that to which I have no right? If I had ever said so, You would surely have known it. You know what is in my mind, while I do not know anything that is within Yours. You alone are the knower of unseen things—¹¹⁷ I told them only what You commanded me to, “Worship God, my Lord and your Lord.” I was a witness to what they did as long as I

remained among them, and when You did cause me to die, You were the watcher over them. You are the witness of all things,¹¹⁸ and if You punish them, they are surely Your servants; and if You forgive them, You are surely the Mighty and Wise.’

¹¹⁹ God will say, ‘This is the Day when the truthful will benefit from their truthfulness. They shall forever dwell in Gardens through which rivers flow. God is pleased with them and they with Him: that is the supreme triumph.¹²⁰ The kingdom of the heavens and the earth and everything in them belongs to God: He has power over all things.

6. THE CATTLE

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

¹ Praise be to God, who has created the heavens and the earth and brought into being darkness and light. Yet those who deny the truth set up equals to their Lord! ² It is He who has created you out of clay, and then has

decreed a term [for you]—a term known [only] to Him. Yet you are still in doubt—³ He is God both in the heavens and on earth. He has knowledge of all that you hide and all that you reveal. He knows what you do; ⁴ yet every

⁸⁸ Moses prayed, ‘Our Lord, You have bestowed upon Pharaoh and his nobles pomp and wealth in the present life, whereby they lead people astray from Your path. Our Lord, destroy their riches and harden their hearts, so that they shall not believe until they are faced with grievous punishment.’

⁸⁹ God said, ‘Your prayer is granted, so continue, then, both of you, steadfastly on the right path, and do not follow the path of those who have no knowledge.’

⁹⁰ So We brought the Children of Israel across the sea. Pharaoh and his troops pursued them arrogantly and aggressively. When he was about to drown, [Pharaoh] exclaimed, ‘I believe that there is no deity save Him in whom the Children of Israel believe, and I am of those who surrender themselves to Him!’
⁹¹ ‘Only now? When you had always been a rebel, and a wrongdoer. ⁹² So We shall save your body this day, so that you may serve as a sign for those who come after you: for many

people are indeed heedless of Our signs.’

⁹³ We settled the Children of Israel in a blessed land, and We provided them with good things. And it was not until knowledge [of God’s revelation] was granted to them that they began to hold divergent views. Your Lord will judge between them on the Day of Resurrection concerning that in which they differed.

⁹⁴ If you are in any doubt concerning what We have sent down to you, then question those who have read the Book before you: the Truth has come to you from your Lord, so do not be one of the doubters—⁹⁵ do not be one who rejects God’s signs, for then you would become one of the losers.

⁹⁶ Those against whom your Lord’s word has been confirmed will never believe; ⁹⁷ not even if every Sign were to come to them—until they see the painful punishment. ⁹⁸ Why was there no other people, save the people of Jonah, who should have believed so that their belief

²⁴ But a voice called out to her from below, ‘Do not despair. Your Lord has provided a brook that runs at your feet, ²⁵ and if you shake the trunk of this palm-tree, it will drop fresh ripe dates on you. ²⁶ Eat and drink and rejoice. And if you see any human being say, “I have vowed a fast [of silence] to the Gracious God, and will not speak with any human being today.”’

²⁷ Carrying her child, she brought him to her people. They said, ‘O Mary, you have indeed done something terrible!’ ²⁸ Sister of Aaron, your father was not an evil man, nor was your mother an unchaste woman!’

²⁹ She pointed to the child. They said, ‘How shall we talk to someone who is a child in the cradle?’ ³⁰ [But] he said, ‘I am God’s servant. He has given me the Book and made me a prophet; ³¹ He has made me blessed wherever I may be, and has enjoined upon me prayer and almsgiving throughout my life. ³² He has made me dutiful toward my mother, and He has not made

me arrogant or wicked. ³³ Blessed was I on the day I was born, and blessed I shall be on the day I die and on the day I am raised to life again.’

³⁴ Such was Jesus, the son of Mary. That is the whole truth, about which they still dispute: ³⁵ it does not befit the majesty of God that He should beget a son. Glory be to Him! He is far above that: when He decrees something, He says only, ‘Be!’ and it is.

³⁶ God is my Lord and your Lord, so worship Him alone. That is the right path. ³⁷ Yet different groups differed among themselves. How awful it will be for those who have rejected the truth when a dreadful Day arrives! ³⁸ How sharp of hearing, how sharp of sight they will be when they come to Us. But today, these evil-doers are obviously lost in error.

³⁹ Warn them of [the coming of] the Day of Remorse, when everything will have been decided, while they are heedless and do not believe. ⁴⁰ It is We who will inherit the earth and all

⁷⁹Peace be upon Noah among all the peoples! ⁸⁰That is how We recompense the righteous: ⁸¹he was truly one of Our faithful servants. ⁸²We drowned the rest.

⁸³Abraham was of the same faith: ⁸⁴he came to his Lord with a sound heart. ⁸⁵‘Behold!’ he said to his father and to his people, ‘What are these that you worship?’ ⁸⁶Would you serve false deities instead of God? ⁸⁷What do you think of the Lord of the Worlds?’

⁸⁸He looked up at the stars. ⁸⁹And said, ‘I am sick,’ ⁹⁰so they turned their backs on him and went off. ⁹¹He turned to their gods and said, ‘Do you not eat?’ ⁹²What is the matter with you that you do not speak?’ ⁹³then he turned on them, striking them down with his right hand. ⁹⁴His people came rushing towards him, ⁹⁵but he said, ‘How can you worship things you carve with your own hands, ⁹⁶when it is God who has created you and all your handiwork?’ ⁹⁷They said, ‘Build a pyre for him and throw him into the blaze!’ ⁹⁸They

wanted to harm him, but We humiliated them all. ⁹⁹He said, ‘I will go to my Lord: He is sure to guide me. ¹⁰⁰Lord, grant me a righteous son.’ ¹⁰¹We gave him the good news that he would have a patient, forbearing son.

¹⁰²And when he reached the age when he could work with him, he said, ‘O my son, I have seen in a dream that I am sacrificing you. So tell me what you think of it!’ He replied, ‘O my father, do as you are commanded; and God willing, you will find me steadfast.’ ¹⁰³When they had both submitted to God, and he had laid his son down on his face, ¹⁰⁴We called out to him, ‘Abraham, ¹⁰⁵you have fulfilled the dream.’ It is thus indeed that We reward those who do good—¹⁰⁶that surely was a manifest trial—¹⁰⁷We ransomed him with a great sacrifice, ¹⁰⁸and left him thus to be succeeded by a group [of followers] among later generations: ¹⁰⁹‘Peace and salutation to Abraham!’ ¹¹⁰That is how We recompense the

righteous: ¹¹¹ truly, he was one of Our faithful servants. ¹¹² We gave Abraham the good news of Isaac—a prophet and a righteous man—¹¹³ and blessed him and Isaac too: some of their offspring were good, but some clearly sinned against their souls.

¹¹⁴ We also bestowed Our favour on Moses and Aaron: ¹¹⁵ We saved them and their people from great distress; ¹¹⁶ and We helped them, so that they were victorious; ¹¹⁷ and We gave them the Book which helps to make things clear; ¹¹⁸ and guided them to the straight path; ¹¹⁹ and We left them thus to be succeeded by a group [of followers] among later generations: ¹²⁰ ‘Peace be upon Moses and Aaron!’ ¹²¹ This is how We reward those who do good: ¹²² truly they were among Our faithful servants.

¹²³ Elijah too was one of the messengers. ¹²⁴ He said to his people, ‘Have you no fear [of God?]’ ¹²⁵ Do you call on Baal and abandon the Best of Creators, ¹²⁶ God your Lord and Lord of your forefathers?’ ¹²⁷ but they

rejected him, and thus will certainly be called to account; ¹²⁸ except the chosen servants of God. ¹²⁹ We left him thus to be succeeded by a group [of followers] among the following generations—¹³⁰ ‘Peace be on Elijah and his people!’ ¹³¹ It is thus indeed that We reward those who do good: ¹³² surely he was one of Our believing servants.

¹³³ Lot was also one of the messengers. ¹³⁴ We saved him and all his people—¹³⁵ except for an old woman who stayed behind—¹³⁶ and We destroyed the rest. ¹³⁷ You pass by their ruins morning ¹³⁸ and night: will you not take heed?

¹³⁹ Jonah too was one of the messengers. ¹⁴⁰ He fled to the overloaded ship. ¹⁴¹ And then they cast lots and he was the one who lost, ¹⁴² and the fish swallowed him while he was blaming himself. ¹⁴³ Had he not been one of those who acknowledge the glory of God, ¹⁴⁴ he would certainly have remained inside the fish till the Day of Resurrection. ¹⁴⁵ But We

46. THE SAND DUNES

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

¹ *Ha Mim*

² This Book is sent down from God, the Almighty, the Wise One. ³ We created the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them purely for just ends, and for a specific term, but those who reject Faith turn away from what they have been warned of.

⁴ Say, 'Have you thought about those you call upon apart from God? Show me what they have created on the earth. Or do they have a share in the heavens? Bring me a Book revealed before this or some other vestige of knowledge, if you are telling the truth. ⁵ And who is more misguided than one who invokes, besides God, such as will not answer him until the Day of Resurrection, and who [in fact] are not even aware of his call, ⁶ and when mankind are gathered together, they will become their

enemies, and will deny their worship?

⁷ And whenever Our clear revelations are recited to them and the Truth is brought to them, those who deny the truth say, 'This is plain magic.' ⁸ Do they mean to say that the Messenger himself has fabricated it? Say [O Muhammad], 'If I have fabricated it myself, you will not be able to do anything to save me from God. He knows quite well what talk you indulge in. He is enough as a witness between me and you; and He is the Forgiving, the Merciful One.'

⁹ Say, 'I am not the first of God's messengers, and I do not know what will be done with me or with you: I do not follow anything but what is revealed to me, and I am merely a plain warner.' ¹⁰ Say, 'Have you thought: what if this Quran really is from God and you reject it? What if one of the Children of