

THE ISLAMIC TRILOGY

VOLUME 3

A SIMPLE KORAN

A RECONSTRUCTED HISTORICAL KORAN

BILL WARNER, PHD

THE ISLAMIC TRILOGY SERIES

VOLUME 1

MOHAMMED AND THE UNBELIEVERS

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A SIMPLE KORAN

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CENTER FOR THE STUDY
OF POLITICAL ISLAM

CSPI PUBLISHING

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This book is dedicated to the
millions of victims of jihad over the last 1400 years.
May you read this and become a voice for the voiceless.

PREFACE

THE CSPI TEACHING METHOD

The Center for the Study of Political Islam, CSPI, teaching method is the easiest and quickest way to learn about Islam.

Authoritative

There are only two ultimate authorities about Islam—Allah and Mohammed. All of the curriculum in the CSPI method is from the Koran and the Sunna (the words and deeds of Mohammed). The knowledge you get in CSPI is powerful, authoritative and irrefutable. You learn the facts about the ideology of Islam from its ultimate sources.

Story-telling

Facts are hard to remember, stories are easy to remember. The most important story in Islam is the life of Mohammed. Once you know the story of Mohammed, all of Islam is easy to understand.

Systemic Knowledge

The easiest way to study Islam is to first see the whole picture. The perfect example of this is the Koran. The Koran alone cannot be understood, but when the life of Mohammed is added, the Koran is straight forward.

There is no way to understand Islam one idea at the time, because there is no context. Context, like story-telling, makes the facts and ideas simple to understand. The best analogy is that when the jig saw puzzle is assembled, the image on the puzzle is easy to see. But looking at the various pieces, it is difficult to see the picture.

Levels of Learning

The ideas of Islam are very foreign to our civilization. It takes repetition to grasp the new ideas. The CSPI method uses four levels of training to teach the doctrine in depth. The first level is designed for a beginner. Each level repeats the basics for in depth learning.

When you finish the first level you will have seen the entire scope of Islam, The in depth knowledge will come from the next levels.

Political Islam, Not Religious Islam

Islam has a political doctrine and a religious doctrine. Its political doctrine is of concern for everyone, while religious Islam is of concern only for Muslims.

Books Designed for Learning

Each CSPI book fits into a teaching system. Most of the paragraphs have an index number which means that you can confirm for yourself how factual the books are by verifying from the original source texts.

LEVEL 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE TRILOGY AND SHARIA

The Life of Mohammed, The Hadith, Lectures on the Foundations of Islam, The Two Hour Koran, Sharia Law for Non-Muslims, Self Study on Political Islam, Level 1

LEVEL 2

APPLIED DOCTRINE, SPECIAL TOPICS

The Doctrine of Women, The Doctrine of Christians and Jews, The Doctrine of Slavery, Self-Study on Political Islam, Level 2, Psychology of the Muslim, Factual Persuasion

LEVEL 3

INTERMEDIATE TRILOGY AND SHARIA

Mohammed and the Unbelievers, Political Traditions of Mohammed, Simple Koran, Self-Study of Political Islam, Level 3, Sources of the Koran, selected topics from Reliance of the Traveller

LEVEL 4

ORIGINAL SOURCE TEXTS

The Life of Muhammed, Guillaume; any Koran, Sahih Bukhari, selected topics, Mohammed and Charlemagne Revisited, Scott.

With the completion of Level 4 you are prepared to read both popular and academic texts.

INTRODUCTION

The Koran must be the world's most famous book that very few have read and even fewer have understood. But we know that this was not true during Mohammed's day. We know from both the Hadith (the traditions of Mohammed) and the Sira (Mohammed's biography) that the Arabs of Mohammed's day not only understood the Koran, but held debates about its meaning.

Why could an illiterate Arab of Mohammed's day understand the Koran and we cannot? Simple. The Koran of Mohammed's day had a context, the life of Mohammed.

The Koran you buy at the bookstore has no context to the verses. There is no time in the Koran, since the chapters are laid out in order of their length, not in time sequence. Imagine that you took a novel and cut off the spine and rebound the book starting with the longest chapter and ending with the shortest chapter. The novel would have been randomized and the plot would be destroyed. That is what has been done with the Koran at the bookstore.

A Simple Koran solves all of these problems by taking the standard Koran and reconstructing the historical Koran by integrating Mohammed's life. Then anyone can pick it up and understand it, just like the Arabs of Mohammed's day.

After reading this Koran, you will be able to pick up a "real" Koran and understand it. Think of this *Simple Koran* as the map or key to the Koran.

KAFIR

The first step in learning about Islam is to know the right words. The language of Islam is dualistic. There is a division of humanity into believer and *kafir* (unbeliever). Humanity is divided into those who believe Mohammed is the prophet of Allah and those who do not.

Kafir is the actual word the Koran uses for non-Muslims. It is usually translated as unbeliever, but that translation is wrong. The word unbeliever is neutral. As you will see, the attitude of the Koran towards unbelievers is very negative. The Koran defines the Kafir.

In Islam, Christians and Jews are infidels and "People of the Book"; Hindus are polytheists and pagans. The terms infidel, People of the Book, pagan and polytheist are religious words. Only the word "Kafir" shows the common political treatment of the Christian, Jew, Hindu, Buddhist,

animist, atheist and humanist. What is done to a pagan can be done to a Jew or any other Kafir. Likewise, what is done to a Jew can be done to any other Kafir.

The word Kafir will be used in this book instead of “unbeliever”, “non-Muslim” or “disbeliever”. Unbeliever or non-Muslim are neutral terms, but Kafir is extremely bigoted and biased.

The Kafir is hated—

40:35 *They [Kafirs] who dispute the signs [Koran verses] of Allah without authority having reached them are greatly hated by Allah and the believers. So Allah seals up every arrogant, disdainful heart.*

A Kafir can be enslaved [Bukhari is a sacred text, see page xii.]—

Bukhari 5,58,148 *When some of the remaining Jews of Medina agreed to obey a verdict from Saed, Mohammed sent for him. He approached the Mosque riding a donkey and Mohammed said, “Stand up for your leader.” Mohammed then said, “Saed, give these people your verdict.” Saed replied, “Their soldiers should be beheaded and their women and children should become slaves.” Mohammed, pleased with the verdict, said, “You have made a ruling that Allah or a king would approve of.”*

A Kafir can be raped—

1759 *On the occasion of Khaybar, Mohammed put forth new orders about forcing sex with captive women. If the woman was pregnant she was not to be used for sex until after the birth of the child. Nor were any women to be used for sex who were unclean with regard to Muslim laws about menstruation.*

A Kafir can be beheaded—

47:4 *When you encounter the Kafirs on the battlefield, cut off their heads until you have thoroughly defeated them and then take the prisoners and tie them up firmly.*

A Kafir can be confused—

6:25 *Some among them listen to you [Mohammed], but We have cast veils over their [Kafirs’] hearts and a heaviness to their ears so that they cannot understand our signs [the Koran].*

A Kafir can be plotted against—

86:15 *They plot and scheme against you [Mohammed], and I plot and scheme against them. Therefore, deal calmly with the Kafirs and leave them alone for a while.*

A Kafir can be terrorized—

8:12 *Then your Lord spoke to His angels and said, “I will be with you. Give strength to the believers. I will send terror into the Kafirs’ hearts, cut off their heads and even the tips of their fingers!”*

A Kafir can be made war on and humiliated—

9:29 *Make war on those who have received the Scriptures [Jews and Christians] but do not believe in Allah or in the Last Day. They do not forbid what Allah and His Messenger have forbidden. The Christians and Jews do not follow the religion of truth until they submit and pay the poll tax [jizya], and they are humiliated.*

A Muslim is not the friend of a Kafir—

3:28 *Believers should not take Kafirs as friends in preference to other believers. Those who do this will have none of Allah’s protection and will only have themselves as guards. Allah warns you to fear Him for all will return to Him.*

THE THREE VIEWS OF ISLAM

There are three points of view in dealing with Islam. The point of view depends upon how you feel about Mohammed. If you believe Mohammed is the prophet of Allah, then you are a believer. If you don’t, you are a *Kafir*. The third viewpoint is that of a Kafir who is an apologist for Islam.

Apologists do not believe that Mohammed was a prophet, but they never say anything that would displease a Muslim. Apologists never offend Islam and condemn any analysis that is critical of Islam as being biased.

Let us give an example of the three points of view.

In Medina, Mohammed sat all day long beside his 12-year-old wife while they watched as the heads of 800 Jews were removed by sword.¹ Their heads were cut off because they had said that Mohammed was not the prophet of Allah.

- Muslims view these deaths as necessary because denying Mohammed’s prophet-hood was an offense against Islam and beheading is the accepted method of punishment, sanctioned by Allah.
- Kafirs look at this event as proof of the jihadic violence of Islam and as an evil act.
- Apologists say that this was a historic event, that all cultures have violence in their past, and that no judgment should be passed. According to the different points of view, killing the 800 Jews was either evil, a perfect godly act or only another historical event, take your pick.

1 *The Life of Muhammad*, A. Guillaume, Oxford University Press, 1982, pg. 464.

Apologists ignore the Islamic belief that the Sunna, Mohammed's words and deeds in the past, is the perfect model for today and tomorrow and forever. They ignore the fact that this past event of the beheading of 800 Jewish men continues to be acceptable in the present and the future, thus the fate of Kafirs today.

This book is written from the Kafir point of view and is therefore, Kafir-centric. Everything in this book views Islam from how it affects Kafirs, non-Muslims. This also means that the religion is of little importance. Only a Muslim cares about the religion of Islam, but all Kafirs are affected by Islam's political views.

Both the apologists and the Muslims believe in an authoritarian philosophy of knowledge. The Muslim accepts without question every aspect of the Sunna and the Koran. The apologist bows to the authority and opinion of the Muslims and never contradicts them.

The Kafir approach to knowledge is analytic or critical. Critical thinking seeks truth through the friction of debate in order to tease out the resolution of an idea. Authoritarians forbid critical thought for the simple reason that it cannot co-exist with authoritative thinking. Muslims forbid critical thinking by threatening and inducing fear. Apologists forbid critical thinking on the basis that offending any minority is a social evil. The offending speech is considered bigoted. The proof of bigotry is that the minority is offended. Even if the statement is true, it can still be called bigotry.

"Truth" has no meaning in authoritative knowledge. There are only thoughts that are allowed and thoughts that are forbidden. "Truth" is determined by appeal to authority, but only to the correct authority. Authoritative knowledge forbids debate. Those who want to debate are demeaned and insulted or simply locked out of the venue. Both political correctness and Islam agree that only "allowed" opinions may be expressed and "forbidden" opinions are declared to be bigotry—a moral evil.

Critical thinking, however, exists by debate. There are no forbidden ideas in critical or analytic thinking.

Notice that these different points of view that cannot be reconciled. There is no possible resolution between the view of the Kafir and the Muslim. The apologist tries to bring about a bridge building compromise, but it is not logically possible.

THE ISLAMIC BIBLE—THE TRILOGY

Islam is defined by the words of Allah in the Koran, and the words and actions of Mohammed, the *Sunna*.

The Sunna of Mohammed is found in two texts—the Sira (Mohammed’s life) and the Hadith. His words and actions are considered to be the divine pattern for humanity acceptable to Allah and the best source for these are the biographies, or Sira, by Ishaq and Al Tabari.

A hadith, or tradition, is a brief story about what Mohammed did or said. A collection of hadiths is called a Hadith. There are many collections of hadiths, but the most authoritative are those by Bukhari and Muslim.

So the Trilogy is the Koran, the Sira and the Hadith. Most people think that the Koran is the “bible” of Islam, but it is only about 14% of the total textual doctrine. Statistically, Islam is 14% Allah and 86% Mohammed. The Trilogy, not the Koran, is the foundation of Islamic doctrine.

WHAT IS THE KORAN?

According to Islam, the Koran is the exact words of the only god of the universe. It is complete, perfect, eternal and universal. It is also unintelligible.

What Mohammed recited as the revelations of Allah was memorized and written down on paper, palm leaves, and even the shoulder blades of animals.

Shortly after Mohammed’s death, Zaid (Mohammed’s secretary) compiled all the known Koranic material. There was a problem, however, since there was disagreement and variation between different collections of Koranic material. About 20 years after Mohammed’s death, Uthman, the caliph, empowered Zaid to gather all of the known versions of the Koran and produce the Koran we know today. The Koran is considered to be the exact, precise recording of the words of Mohammed reporting what he heard from the angel Gabriel. Since Mohammed’s transmission of the revelation is taken to be perfect, the Koran is considered by all Muslims to be the perfect, exact words of Allah, without a single error.

Uthman then took and burned all of the sources. No comment is ever made about this burning, but it is telling. Why would Uthman burn all of the original source material?

The Koran that Uthman produced was not the Koran of Mohammed. In the historical Koran each chapter followed the other as Mohammed’s life unfolded. This is the Koran that has the original time sequence and includes events Mohammed was involved in at the time.

The historical Koran was easy to understand. An illiterate Arabian could understand it because each verse was in the context of what was happening at the time. If that original historical form is reproduced, then the resulting Koran can be understood by anyone who reads it.

The public image of the Koran is that everybody has heard about it, but no one knows anyone who understands it. As a result of the lack of knowledge, there are myths about it: The Koran is very profound; it is full of wisdom; it is so deep that you must be highly trained or a Muslim to comprehend it; it is in the same category as the Bible. Even though people don't know what it is, they have firm conclusions.

THE DIFFICULTY OF KNOWING THE KORAN

The form of the Koran found in the bookstore is designed to not be understood.

The problems

1. When Zaid compiled all the copies of the Koran, he arranged them from the longest chapter to the shortest chapter. The sequence of events is scrambled. As a result, no one can understand the original story.
2. Each chapter has a bewildering array of topics. One topic abruptly ends and an unrelated one begins.
3. It is very repetitive. The story of Moses is told 39 times. This is an important clue about the true nature of the Koran, but it is tiresome to read the same story again and again. Not only are the stories repetitive, but also there are 290 different verses about Hell. The constant repetition is tiresome.
4. There is no context to many verses. Subjects just lurch up in front of you from out of nowhere. This is very confusing.
5. There are many strange names and foreign terms.
6. It is contradictory. One verse will teach tolerance and the next will call for the death of Kafirs. The contradictions confuse the reader.
7. The Koran contains a great deal of violence towards Kafirs. It threatens and insults Kafirs and calls them foul names. This makes a Kafir want to avoid reading it.

The sum total is that the Koran is confusing, contradictory, makes no sense, and is strange, violent, threatening and unpleasant. It's difficult to understand and daunting to attempt.

The most common comment is that a better translation is needed. That is absolutely not the case. No translation will fix a single one of the problems that make the Koran unreadable. Besides, anyone who wants to go onto the web can read the Koran in many translations. The only difference between them is how they handle the violence.

All of this is unfortunate, because when the Koran is made readable, it becomes a truly epic story with an incredible plot. It is also the most frightening book you will ever read because once it is clear, you can see the future.

There is a way to solve each and every difficulty that has been discussed while retaining every verse.

Problem 1: There is no time in the Koran

The Koran cannot be understood without time being reintroduced. Zaid had the Koran arranged in order of chapter length and destroyed the historical Koran. Thus, the classical Koran that is found in the bookstore is obscure. Taking out the time-line has randomized it. Uthman did two things that totally changed the Koran. By burning all of the source material, he made the Koran “superior” to the New Testament and Old Testament, since they have known variations in their historical texts. And since Uthman destroyed all of the variations, the Koran could be claimed to be exactly like the one Allah gave to Mohammed.

But more importantly, by rearranging the Koran, he removed the story. The story of the Koran is that Islam triumphed over all Mohammed’s enemies. It is a political story of triumph and conquest. By removing the political ending, Uthman cloaked the politics in rhetoric and made it seem more religious. Confusion passes for profoundness.

So, the first step is to put the elements of the document in the proper historical order. That turns out to be an almost trivial process. The correct order of the chapters is well known to scholars². Anybody with access to the web can download a version of the Koran and use a word processor to produce a Koran in the right time order. It is a cut-and-paste job, no more, no less. Once you have the Koran on your word processor and the proper sequence of each chapter, it takes about an hour to produce a Koran with the proper chronological sequence.

Problem 2: Topics

When you read a chapter in the Koran it jumps from one topic to the next. The first clue is that the Arabic word, sura, which is translated as “chapter” is not a chapter in the normal sense. A better term would be folder, because it is just like a file folder with many different letters in it.

2 *Discovering the Quran*, Neal Robinson, SCM Press Ltd, 1996, pgs. 78-79.

The problem is that one runs on into the next. Most versions of the Koran introduce their own topic breaks.

One powerful method of organizing the suras into chapters is the Koranic Argument. This method is discussed in the final chapter, “Conclusions” on page 380.

Problem 3: Repetition

The Koran is filled with stories that allow easy categorization. The story of Moses is easily recognized as a topic. Then there are the repetitive Arabic stories of Thamud and others. But there remains a lot of verbiage that is not a story. How should it be arranged into topics?

Once the Koran is placed into the right chronological order, the next step is to group together all of the similar repetitive material. One of the most tiresome things about the Koran is the endless repetition.

The reason for the repetition is simple. The Koran is an exact recording of Mohammed’s campaign of persuasion. Imagine that you are a reporter and follow a political candidate around as he speaks. You will find that he constantly repeats the same points, but with slight variations. This is what happened with the Koran. Mohammed covered the same points over and over again. Hence, the repetitive Koran. The Koran is an exact history of Mohammed’s career as a prophet of Allah.

Once the Koran is categorized, similar topics can be grouped together. This greatly simplifies the comprehension and ease of reading. When similar topics are grouped, it becomes easy to skip over them and not feel like you are missing anything. It also allows the reader to see the small changes in the stories. The Koran did not always repeat the story in the same way.

When the stories are grouped, another thing really stands out. Allah was no storyteller. A story has a beginning, middle and an end. Not one story in the Koran can stand on its own. There are always missing pieces. Even the Joseph story, technically the best told story in the Koran, is incomplete.

Problem 4: Context

There is a missing piece to the Koranic puzzle. The missing piece is Mohammed. Only Mohammed can make the Koran coherent. Take as an example:

Koran 59:5 *Allah gave you permission to cut down some palm trees and leave others intact so as to shame the wicked [the Jews]. After Allah gave the spoils to His Messenger, you made no move with horses or camels to capture them [the Jews], but Allah gives His messengers power over what He chooses. Allah is all-powerful.*

As you read along, this verse, without any context, just jumps out at you. Why does Allah suddenly talk about palm trees? The answer is that Mohammed attacked the Jews near Medina and he wanted to destroy their economy by cutting down their date palm plantations.

So, if we weave Mohammed's life into the Koran, then the Koran has a context and all of the mystery is gone. By including Mohammed, we have reproduced the original version. The Koran unfolded as needed by Mohammed. The Koran frequently gives a solution to an ongoing problem in his life. When Mohammed's life is integrated into it, the Koran becomes an epic story that ends with the triumph of Islam.

Problem 5: Arabic

Islam frequently claims that the Koran cannot be translated. Much of the Koran is written in a poetic style that is similar to the ancient classical texts such as the Greek *Odyssey*. The *Odyssey* is an epic tale that is written in poetry, which makes it easy to memorize. The Koran is also written, in great part, in a poetic form that is easy to memorize.

Take an English proverb: "Birds of a feather, flock together." We have the information that a flock of birds only contains one type of bird, but it is written in poetic form. Can the poetry of "Birds of a feather, flock together" be translated into Arabic? No. But the meaning of "a flock of birds contains only one type of bird," can be easily translated into Arabic.

The poetry of the Koran does not translate, but the meaning can be translated. Read many different translations of the Koran and you will find the meaning is consistent across the translations.

So, can the Koran be translated? In one sense, no. Can the meaning be translated into any other language? Yes. If the meaning of a particular section of the Koran cannot be translated, then that implies that the concept is not applicable to that language. Or said another way, that part of the Koran would not be universal. But the Koran is very insistent upon the fact that it is universal. It follows that the universal meaning can be translated into all languages. In particular, anything that is said about the Kafir can be understood by the Kafir. If there are religious verses that only those trained in classical Arabic can read, it does not concern the Kafir. Kafirs do not care about the religion of Islam.

Problem 6: Strange names and terms

Nothing can be done about the names, as such. But it is simple to define the names and terms and put them in brackets as an in-line comment.

Problems 7, 8, 9: Contradictions, violence and Kafir

There is no way to temper these verses, except to say that they provide the deepest insight into the true inner nature of the Koran. The violence against the Kafir is central to the Koran, since it is frequent. The contradictions are part of Koranic doctrine called abrogation. The Koran directly addresses the contradictions within it and provides a way to resolve the issues. There will be much more said about this in the next chapter. The contradictions are part of Islamic dualism. None of these problems can be removed.

SUMMARY

The Koran can be made understandable by using:

- Chronology—putting the verses in the original historical order
- Categorizing—the method of grouping verses around the same subject.
- Context—using Mohammed’s life to explain the circumstances and environment of the text.

Any Muslim will tell you that this book is not a Koran. That may or may not be, but this book is a key or map to the “real” Koran. After you read this Koran, you will be able to pick up a “real” Koran and it will be easily understood.

READING THE KORAN

The Koran is a difficult book when it is viewed as a religious text. But when it is viewed as an historical and political text as well as a religious text, it is a straightforward story. To understand the language, you need some background. Islam holds that the Koran is the perfect record of what the angel Gabriel (also called a spirit) told Mohammed. When the words I, We, Us, and Me are used, they refer to Allah. I and We can occur in the same verse.

The term “Say:” is used frequently and means that Gabriel is telling Mohammed to say this to the people.

Another common term is “signs.” Signs can be manifestations of nature, e.g. rain after a drought, or signs can be verses of the Koran. Each verse is considered a miracle by Islam.

With this background, read one of the epic stories of history. When you finish it, you will be able to pick up any translation of the Koran and read it with understanding.

HOW THE VERSES ARE GROUPED

The classical arrangement of the Koran is by chapters (suras) and verses. The verses are not so useful in understanding since a verse is usually a sentence, not an complete idea. So the first step for easy understanding is to group the verses into paragraphs that contain a coherent thought (*pericope*). As an example:

- 93:4 *Certainly the future will be better than the past.*
 93:5 *In the end your Lord will be generous to you, and you will be satisfied.*
 93:6 *Did He not find you living like an orphan and give you a home?*
 93:7 *Did He not find you lost and give you guidance?*
 93:8 *Did He not find you poor, and did He not give you enough?*

These verses have been grouped into a paragraph:

93:4 *Certainly the future will be better than the past, and in the end your Lord will be generous to you, and you will be satisfied. Did He not find you living like an orphan and give you a home? Did He not find you lost and give you guidance? Did He not find you poor, and did He not give you enough?*

REFERENCE NUMBERS

The information in this book can be traced back to the source by use of the reference numbers:

I234 is a reference to Ibn Ishaq's *Sirat Rasul Allah*, translated by A. Guillaume as *The Life of Muhammad*. This is a reference to margin note 234.

T123 is a reference to *The History of al-Tabari* by the State University of New York. The number refers to the margin note 123.

M234 is a reference to *The Life of Mohammed* by Sir William Muir, AMS Press, New York, NY, 1975. The number is page 234.

B2,3,45 is a reference to Bukhari's Hadith. The three example numbers are volume 2, book 3, and number 45, a standard reference system.

M2,345 is a reference to Muslim's Hadith. The example would be book 2, number 345.

12:45 is Koran chapter (sura) 12, verse 45.

It is the present state of knowledge of the West about Islam that there is no standardized spelling of proper Arabic nouns. Examples: Muslim/Moslem, Mohammed/Muhammad, Koran/Quran.

IN THE BEGINNING

CHAPTER 1

*33:21 You have an excellent example in Allah's Messenger
for those of you who put your hope in Allah and the
Last Day and who praise Allah continually.*

Read the "INTRODUCTION" on page ixchapter.

Fourteen hundred years ago in Arabia, there was an orphan who became the first king of Arabia. Mohammed's name would become the most common name in the world. He was to create an empire that would dwarf the Roman Empire, and he was to become the ideal pattern for all men and make the god of the Arabs the god of all. The smallest aspect of his behavior would be recorded in great detail and would set the pattern of life for billions of people over 1400 years.

Mohammed's father was called Abdullah, meaning slave of Allah. Allah was a high god of the many gods worshiped in the town of Mecca. His father died while his mother was pregnant. When he was five years old, his mother died and his grandfather took over his upbringing. Then Mohammed was orphaned for the third time when his grandfather died and his raising was assumed by his uncle, Abu Talib. All were of the Quraysh tribe. These brief facts are the history known about his early childhood.

MOHAMMED'S TRIBE—THE QURAYSH

When Mohammed was born, there was no nation of Arabia, no Arabian king, no political unity. The society was tribal in nature and had the usual tribal aspects. A person was not an individual as much as he was a part of a tribe. Blood relations were everything, and when someone met someone outside the tribe, the first question was what is your tribe and your lineage? Your name gave a portion of your lineage. Without your tribe you were fair game and very weak. Squabbling and fighting amongst clans were common and were ruled by blood laws.

The Quraysh came to Mecca five generations before Mohammed under the leadership of Qusayy. Under Qusayy the rituals of worship at the Kabah [a stone temple] were established. The Quraysh became the

priestly tribe of Mecca. They were the nobility of the town and held the ceremonial offices.

In addition to being religious leaders, the Quraysh were traders and business men. Religion and business came together in the form of the different religious pilgrimages and the accompanying business transactions.

Mohammed's clan was the Hashim clan of the Quraysh tribe. The Hashimite clan is active in politics today.

MECCA AS A RELIGIOUS CENTER

In Mecca there was a stone building in the shape of a cube called the Kabah. The Kabah was a religious site that contained many images of several tribal gods. We know of at least six other square stone houses called Kabahs that were in other towns in Arabia. However, Islam holds that the Kabah in Mecca was built by Abraham, the patriarch of the Jews.

The Kabah was the focus of religious rituals and a community center. Rituals established by Qusayy included prostrations, ritual prayers, and circling the Kabah while praying and drinking from the well called Zam Zam. Other rituals included throwing stones at pillars which symbolized the devil. Islam's rituals come from the aboriginal Arabic religions.

Stones played an important part of the religions of Arabia. The Kabah was made of stone and had an important stone, the Black Stone, built into the corner of the Kabah. It was probably a meteorite and was a composite of several stones. It is small in size, roughly seven inches in diameter. This stone was touched only with the right hand and kissed by pilgrims. All of these native rituals were incorporated into Islam.

The god, Allah, seems to have been a male god of the moon and was probably the god of the Quraysh. Each tribe had its gods. There was not much organization of gods, unlike the Greeks or Romans. Mohammed's father was named after Allah, but his other brothers were named after other Arabic gods.

EARLY LIFE

CHAPTER 2

3:131 *Obey Allah and His messenger so that you may receive mercy.*

CHILDHOOD

1115¹ When Mohammed was eight years old, his grandfather died. He was then taken in by Abu Talib, his uncle. His uncle took him on a trading trip to Syria, which was a very different place from Mecca. Syria was a sophisticated country that was Christian and very much a part of the cosmopolitan culture of the Mediterranean. It was Syrian Christians who gave the Arabs their alphabet. When Mohammed was a child there had never been a book written in Arabic. Only poems and business correspondence were written in Arabic.

MARRIAGE

1120 Mohammed was grown when he was hired by the wealthy widow and a distant cousin Khadija to act as her agent in trading with Syria. Mohammed had a reputation of good character and good business sense. Trading from Mecca to Syria was risky business because it took skill to manage a caravan and then to make the best deal in Syria. He managed Khadija's affairs well, and she returned a good profit on the trading.

1120 Khadija was a widow and well known among the Quraysh tribe. Sometime after hiring Mohammed as her business agent, she proposed marriage to him. They married and had six children. Their two sons died in childhood, and the four daughters lived to adulthood.

MONOTHEISM IN ARABIA

1144 The Arabs referred to monotheism as Hanifiya and to those who were monotheists as Hanifs. By far the strongest strain of monotheism was represented by the Jews. After the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans due to the Zealot's rebellion, Jews dispersed throughout the Middle East, so there was a strong presence of Jews in Arabia. There were a few Christians who were local Arabs, in fact, Mohammed's wife had a cousin

1. This reference is to Ishaq's *Sirat Rasul Allah*

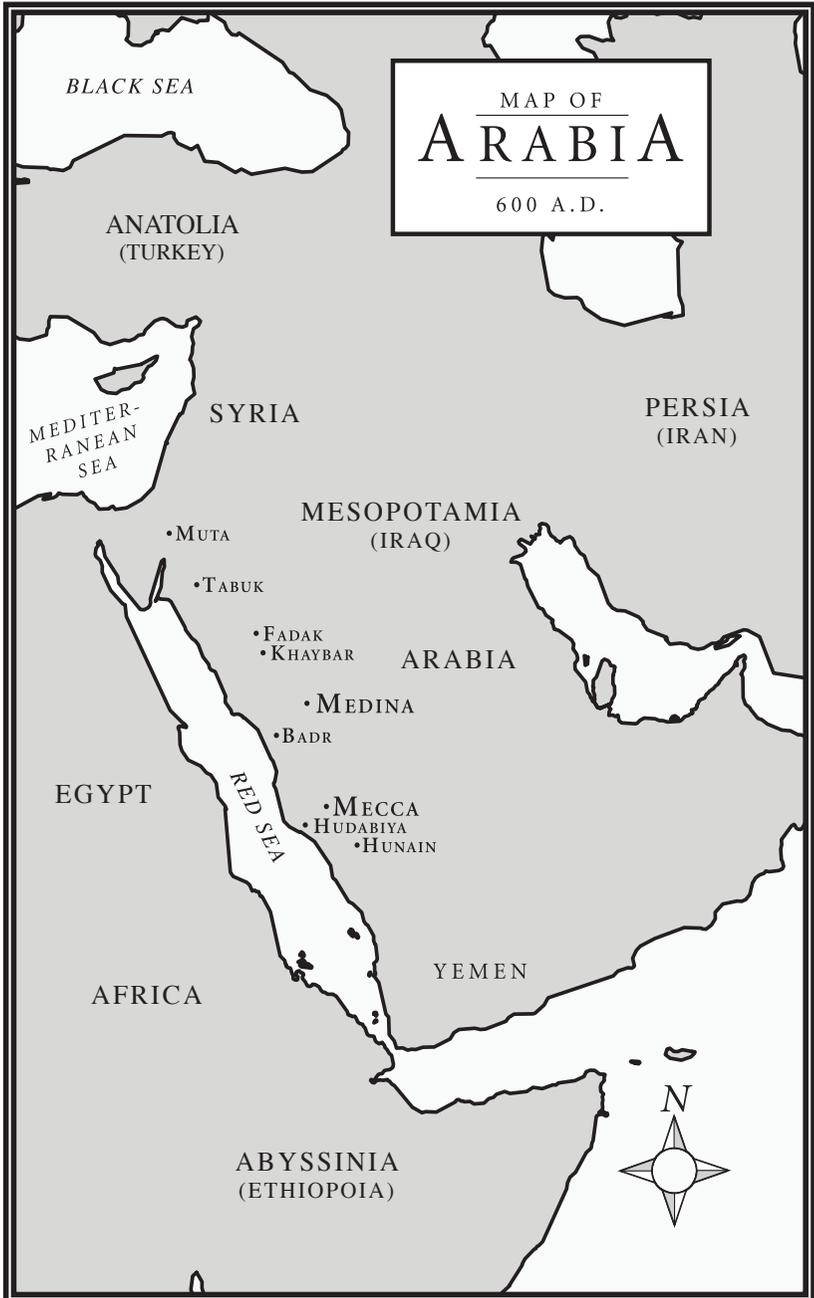
who was a Christian. But the type of Christianity in the area of Mecca was unorthodox with a Trinity of God, Jesus and Mary.

1144 Jews and Christians were called the People of the Book. Since there was no book yet published in Arabic, this distinction was a strong one. The sources of the Arabic religions were found in oral tradition and custom. The Meccans were aware of the Jewish Abrahamic myths, and though Mecca was a long way from Syria where Abraham dwelt, the Meccans claimed that Abraham and Ishmael had built the Kabah in ancient times.

1144 Even though there was a pull towards monotheism, it mixed with ancient Arabic tribal religions in a society that had a tolerance for different religious beliefs. In one clan, families would differ in the deities they included in their worship. These included deities that were brought into the home through marriage outside of the clan and a belief of spirits, or jinns, that could influence lives in good or bad ways.

1144-149 One monotheist, Zayd, abandoned all religion and created his own monotheistic religion, making his own prayers and rituals. They were a fusion of Judaism theology and tribal rituals, including use of the Kabah for a prayer focus and prostrations. He said that Abraham prayed facing in a sacred direction and condemned and publicly attacked his tribal members for their religion. The one god was to be feared, heaven was a garden, and infidels would burn in Hell. He condemned any form of worship of a god except the one god, and people submitted to the un-named one god. Much of his poetry used the same language as the Koran did. He referenced his worship to the Jewish patriarchs as they were pure in their worship. Mohammed recognized him as a precursor.

THE KORAN OF MECCA



BEGINNING TEACHINGS

CHAPTER 3

4:13 These are the limits set up by Allah. Those who obey Allah and His Messenger will be led into the Gardens watered by flowing rivers to live forever. This is the ultimate reward!

T1150 Mohammed would take month long retreats to be alone and do the Quraysh religious practices. After the retreat he would go and circumambulate (circle and pray) the Kabah.

T1152 At the age of forty Mohammed began to have visions and hear voices. His visions were first shown to him as bright as daybreak during his sleep in the month of Ramadan. Mohammed said that the angel, Gabriel, came to him with a brocade with writing on it and commanded him to read. "What shall I read?" The angel pressed him and said, "Read." Mohammed said again, "What shall I read?" The angel pressed him again tightly and again commanded, "Read!" Again the reply, "What shall I read?"

The angel said:

96:1 Recite: In the name of your Lord, Who created man from clots of blood.

96:3 Recite: Your Lord is the most generous, Who taught the use of the pen and taught man what he did not know.

T1150 Mohammed awoke from his sleep. Now Mohammed hated ecstatic poets and the insane. His thoughts were that he was now either a poet or insane, that which he hated. He thought to kill himself by jumping off a cliff. And off he went to do just that. Half way up the hill, he heard, "Mohammed, You are the apostle of Allah and I am Gabriel." He gazed at the angel and no matter which way he turned his head the vision followed his eyes. Mohammed stood there for a long time.

Then Mohammed began to receive what he called revelations such as:

74:1 You [Mohammed], wrapped up in your robe, get up and sound the alarm.

74:3 Magnify your Lord. Purify your garment. Run from abomination. Do not give favors with the thought of reward. Wait patiently for your Lord. When the trumpet sounds, it will be a terrible day, a day without rest for the Kafir.

97:1 Surely, We have revealed it [the Koran] on the night of power. And who will explain to you what the night of power is? The night of power is better than a thousand months. On that night the angels and the spirit descended with their Lord's permission, to do their every duty and all is peace until the break of day.

53:57 The one who warns you, also warned the people of old. The inevitable day is drawing near and only Allah can reveal the time. Do you marvel at these announcements? And that you laugh and do not cry while you amuse yourself with vanities?

53:62 Bow down before Allah and worship.

55:1 Merciful Allah has taught the Koran, has created man, and has taught him to speak. The sun and the moon follow their exact courses, and the plants and the trees bow down in adoration. He has uplifted the sky and set the balance of justice so that you may not exceed the right measure. Measure fairly, and do not cheat the balance.

55:10 He has prepared the earth for his creatures. On it there are fruits and palms with sheathed clusters and husked grains and fragrant plants. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

55:14 He has created man from clay like a potter, and He created the jinn [invisible beings] from smokeless fire. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

55:17 He is the Lord of the east. He is the Lord of the west. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

55:19 He has freed the two seas [fresh water and salt water] so that they meet, but separated them with a barrier that they cannot breach. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

55:22 From the seas come pearls and coral. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

55:24 His ships sail the seas, towering like mountains. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

55:26 Everything on the earth will perish, but the majestic and glorious face of your Lord will endure forever. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

55:29 Everything in the heavens and the earth look to Him. Every day He exercises absolute power. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

55:31 Soon We will settle the affairs of men and jinn [invisible beings]. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

THE FIRST CONVERT

1156 Mohammed's wife, Khadija, was the first convert. From the first she had encouraged him, believed him. She knew him to be of good character and did not think him to be deceived or crazy.

Soon he stopped hearing voices or seeing visions and became depressed and felt abandoned. Then his visions started again and said:

93:1 *By the brightness of the noonday sun and by the night at its darkest, your Lord has not forgotten you, and He does not hate you.*

93:4 *Certainly the future will be better than the past, and in the end your Lord will be generous to you, and you will be satisfied. Did He not find you living like an orphan and give you a home? Did He not find you lost and give you guidance? Did He not find you poor, and did He not give you enough?*

93:9 *Therefore, do not oppress the orphan, and do not scold the beggar. Instead, announce the bounty of your Lord.*

Then Mohammed began to tell others who were close to him of words in his visions.

1:1 *In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful.*

1:2 *Praise be to Allah, Lord of the worlds. The Compassionate, the Merciful. King of the Judgment Day.*

1:5 *Only You do we worship, and to You alone do we ask for help. Keep us on the straight and narrow path. The path of those that You favor; not the path of those who anger You [the Jews] nor the path of those who go astray [the Christians].*

106:1 *For the protection of the Quraysh [the leading tribe of Mecca, Mohammed was of the Quraysh tribe] during their winter and summer caravans. Let them worship the Lord of this house [the Kabah], Who has provided them with food against hunger, and secured them from fear.*

107:1 *What do you think of him who treats Our religion as a lie, who trusts that others will raise the orphan, and does not urge others to feed the poor? Woe to those who pray, but whose prayers are careless and to those who make a show of devotion, but refuse to help the needy.*

100:1 *By the snorting war steeds! And those whose hooves strike sparks of Fire! And those who press home the dawn attack! And raise clouds of dust, and slice through the enemy!*

100:6 *Truly, man is ungrateful to this Lord. He proves this with his actions. His love of wealth is passionate. Does he not know that when the graves are emptied and the secrets confined in men's hearts are revealed, that on that day their Lord will be perfectly informed about them?*

Except with Their Wives or Slave-Girls

70:22 *Not the devout, who pray constantly and whose wealth has a fixed portion set aside for beggars and the destitute, and those who believe in the Judgment Day, and those who fear their Lord's punishment—because no one is safe from their Lord's punishment—and who*

control their sexual desires (except with their wives or slave-girls, with them there is no blame; but whoever indulges their lust beyond this are transgressors), and who keep their trusts and promises, and who tell the truth, and who are attentive to their prayers. These will live with honors in Gardens.

113:1 Say: I seek protection with the Lord of the daybreak: from the mischief of His creation, from the mischief of the night when it falls, from the mischief of witches and magicians, and from the mischief of the envious.

102:1 The desire for increased wealth preoccupies you, from the cradle to your grave. No, but in the end you will know. No, once again, in the end you will know your foolishness.

102:5 No, if only you knew it with certain knowledge! Certainly you will see Hellfire. You will surely see it with certainty; on that day you will be questioned concerning your pleasures.

We Will Make the Path to Misery Easy

92:5 He who gives alms and fears Allah and accepts the good, to him We will make the path to happiness easy. But he who is greedy and does not think he needs Allah's help and calls the good a lie, to him We will make the path to misery easy. And what good will his wealth do him when he dies?

92:12 Certainly it is up to Us to guide man and certainly the future and the past belong to Us. Therefore I warn you of the blazing Fire. Only the most wretched will be thrown into it, those who call the truth a lie and turn their backs.

92:17 Those who fear Allah will escape it and so will those who give away their wealth so that they may be purified; and who give freely without hope of reward, except seeking the pleasure of his Lord, the most high, certainly in the end they will be content.

86:5 Let man consider from what he is created. He was created from a gushing fluid that comes from between the loins and ribs. Certainly Allah is able to return him to life.

86:9 On the day when all secrets are revealed, he will have no strength or helper.

PRAYER

1157 Mohammed began to do his prayers with his new understanding. At first he did two prostrations with each prayer. Later he understood that he should use four prostrations per prayer and use two prostrations when he was traveling.

1158 Then when he was on a mountain he saw a vision in which Gabriel showed him how to do ritual ablutions as a purification ritual before prayer. He went home and showed his wife, Khadija, how he now understood the prayer rituals to be done and she copied him.

T1162 Mohammed, his wife and nephew, Ali, started praying at the Kabah with their new rituals of ablutions and prayer with prostrations. A visitor asked about this new ritual and was told that it was a new religion and that Mohammed said that he would receive the treasures of Rome and Persia.

73:1 You [Mohammed] wrapped up in your robe, awake half the night, more or less, to pray and recite the Koran in a measured rhythm, because We will send down to you a weighty message. Certainly nightfall is a time when impressions are stronger and speech is more certain. Obviously, the day is filled with constant work.

73:8 Remember the name of your Lord, and devote yourself to Him with complete devotion. Lord of the east and the west; there is no god except Allah. Take Him for your protector.

73:20 Your Lord knows that you spend nearly two-thirds, or half, or a third of the night praying, just as some others do. Allah measures the day and the night. He knows that you cannot count the time accurately, and He looks at you with mercy. Therefore, recite as much of the Koran as is easy for you. He knows that sometimes people are sick, or traveling, or fighting in his cause. Recite, therefore, as much as is easy for you. Observe your prayers, pay the required alms, and lend Allah a generous loan. Whatever good deeds you perform will be waiting for you with Allah. This will be the best and richest reward. Ask Allah for forgiveness. Certainly, Allah is forgiving and merciful.

THE FIRST MALES TO ACCEPT ISLAM

1159 A famine overtook the Quraysh and Mohammed's uncle Abu Talib had a large family. Abu Talib was a well respected tribal leader, but had fallen on hard times. Mohammed went to another uncle, Al Abbas, and they both went to Abu Talib and offered to help raise two of his children. Ali went into Mohammed's house to be raised by him and Khadija. When Ali turned ten he joined with Mohammed in his new religion, Islam.

1160 Mohammed and Ali used to go to the edge of town to practice their new ritual prayers. One day Abu Talib came upon them and asked what were they doing? Mohammed replied, "Uncle, this is the religion of Allah, His angels, His prophets and the religion of Abraham. Allah has sent me as an apostle to all mankind. You, my uncle, deserve that I should teach

you the truth and call you to Islam.” His uncle said that he could not give up the religion of his ancestors, but that he would support Mohammed.

The native Arabic religions were tribal in that every tribe had its deities, but the ceremonies and traditions were passed down by oral tradition, not in writing.

Mohammed lived in Mecca, which had been a religious center for many generations. It had a stone building that was roughly shaped like a cube and was called a Kabah. There were at least five other Kabahs in other towns in Arabia. The Kabah was a religious center for many of the native religions. Some sources say that there were as many as 360 deities worshiped in Mecca, a city that was profoundly polytheistic and tolerant. There were religious festivals that involved pilgrimages to Mecca, so at different times of the year, many tribes would gather to trade and do religious ceremonies.

One of the many gods in Mecca was Allah, a moon god. The native religions did not have any formal structure to the many deities, but Allah was a high god. Allah was the primary god of the Quraysh tribe of Mohammed, and Mohammed’s father was named Abdullah, slave of Allah.

The idea of having an Arabian prophet was new. The sources of the native religions were unknown, but the new religion of Islam had a self-declared prophet. The Jews had prophets, and now the Arabs had a prophet in Mohammed.

87:1 Praise the name of your Lord, the Most High, who has created and proportioned all things, who has determined man’s destinies and guided them, who brought forth the pasture, and reduced it to dusty stubble.

87:6 We will teach you to recite [the Koran] so that you do not forget, unless Allah wishes. He knows everything manifest and secret, and We will make it easy for you [Mohammed] to attain a state of ease. Therefore give warning because the warning is profitable. He who fears Allah will receive the warning, and only the most unfortunate ones will avoid it. They will be flung into Hellfire, in which there is no death or life.

Since Mohammed was a prophet, it was natural that the Koran should pick the thread of the history of the Jews and their prophets, such as Abraham and Moses.

87:14 Happy is the man who is purified [by Islam] and who remembers the name of his Lord and prays.

87:16 You prefer this present life, though the hereafter is better and more enduring.

87:18 This is certainly contained in the earlier scriptures of Abraham and Moses

Stories about Abraham:

51:24 *Have you heard the story of Abraham's honored guests? They went to him and said, "Peace!" And he replied, "Peace, strangers." And he went among his household and brought out a fatted calf, and he set it before them and said, "Do you want to eat?" They did not, and he became afraid of them. They said to him, "Do not be afraid," and gave him the news that he was going to father a wise son. Abraham's wife came forward with a cry, striking her face, and said, "But I am old and barren!"*

51:30 *They said, "Your Lord says it is true, and he is wise and knowing."*

51:31 *Abraham said, "What errand are you on, messengers?" They replied, "We are sent to a wicked people, to shower them with stones of clay, sent by your Lord for their excesses."*

51:35 *We went to evacuate the believers in the city, but We only found one Muslim family, and We left signs warning those who fear the painful punishment. Moses was another sign. We sent him to Pharaoh with manifest authority. But Pharaoh was confident of his might and turned his back and said, "You are a magician, or insane." So We seized him and his army and cast them into the sea, and he had only himself to blame.*

Stories about Moses:

79: 15 *Have you heard the story of Moses? How his Lord called to him in the sacred valley of Tuwa, saying, "Go to Pharaoh. He has rebelled, and say, 'Do you want to be purified?' Then I will guide you to your Lord so that you may fear Him."*

79:20 *And Moses showed Pharaoh a great miracle. But Pharaoh denied it and disobeyed. Furthermore, he turned his back and rebelled against Allah. He gathered an army and made a proclamation, saying, "I am your lord, the most high." So Allah punished him and made an example of him in this life and the hereafter. Surely this is a lesson for those who fear Allah.*

Mohammed preached the doctrine of the Day of Judgment.

80:11 *No, this [the Koran] is a warning! Let him who is willing, keep this in mind. It is written on honored pages, exalted and purified, by the hands of scribes, honorable and righteous.*

80:16 *Cursed be man! What has made him reject Allah? From what thing did Allah create him? He created him and molded him from a drop of sperm; then He made an easy path for him from the womb then caused him to die and put him in his grave. Then when He pleases, He will resurrect him. But man has not yet fulfilled Allah's commands.*

80:24 *Let man consider his food. First, We poured down the rain in abundance; then split the earth apart and caused the grain to grow along with grapes and healing herbs, the olive and the palm; and enclosed gardens dense with trees, and fruits and vegetables for man's use and for his cattle.*

80:33 *But when the trumpet blast sounds, a man will flee from his brother and his mother and his father and his wife and his children. That day, every man will be focused on his own concerns. There will be radiant faces that day, laughing and joyous, but other faces that day will have dust upon them and blackness will cover them. These are the Kafirs, the wicked.*

101:1 *The disaster! What is the disaster? Who will teach you what the disaster is?*

101:4 *The Day when men will be like scattered moths, and the mountains will be like carded wool then, the man whose balance of good deeds is heavy will have a pleasant life.*

101:8 *The man whose balance of good deeds is light will dwell in the pit. Who will teach you what the pit is? A raging Fire!*

When is the Day of Resurrection?

75:1 *I swear by the Day of Resurrection. I swear by the self-examining soul.*

75:3 *Does man think that We will be unable to reunite his bones? Yes! We can restore him down to the finger tips. Man chooses to deny that which is in front of him. He asks, "When is the Day of Resurrection?"*

75:7 *But when the eye becomes dazzled, and when the moon is eclipsed, and when the sun and the moon are united, on that day men will cry, "Where can we hide?" But they cry vainly, because there is no place to hide—the only asylum that day is with your Lord. On that day men will be told of everything they did and everything they did not do. Yes! Man is evidence against himself, even if he makes excuses.*

75:16 *(While reciting this revelation, do not hasten carelessly because it is Our responsibility to collect and recite it. When We recite it, carefully follow the recital, and surely, We will clarify everything afterwards.)*

75:20 *Yes! Men love the present life and neglect the life to come. Some faces will be joyous that day, looking toward their Lord; and some faces that day will be despondent, as if they sensed an imminent disaster. Yes! When the soul comes up into the throat, and people cry, "Who has magic that can save us?"*

75:28 *When the man is sure that his time has come, and when one leg is laid over the other [in the death struggle], on that day he will be driven to your Lord, because he did not believe, and he did not pray. Instead he called the truth a lie and turned his back. Then he paraded back to his people with haughty attitude.*

75:34 *That hour is getting closer and closer. It constantly gets closer and closer.*

75:36 *Does man think that he has no purpose? Did he not begin as a drop of sperm? Later he became a clot of blood that Allah formed and fashioned and made from him a pair, the male and female.*

75:40 *Do you think that He does not have the power to resurrect the dead?*

The Wicked Will be in Hell

82:1 *When the sky splits in half, and when the stars disperse, and when the oceans burst forth, and when the graves are thrown open, every soul will know what it has done and what it did not do. Man, what led you away from your generous Lord, Who created you and molded you and gave you form? He made you in any form He chose, but you deny the Day of Judgment.*

82:10 *Surely there are guardians looking over you—honorable recorders—who know and write everything you do. The righteous will dwell in happiness, but the wicked will be in Hell. They will burn there on Judgment Day, and there is no way for them to avoid it. Who will teach you what the Judgment Day is? It is the day when no soul has control over another; on that day only Allah has power.*

99:1 *When the earth is shaken with quakes and the earth casts up her burdens, man will ask, “What does this mean?”*

99:4 *On that day she will tell her news, because your Lord inspired her. On that day men will come forward in droves to witness their deeds, and whoever has done even an atom’s weight of good will see it, and whoever has done even an atom’s weight of evil will see it.*

Drink from a Fiercely Boiling Fountain

88:1 *Have you heard the news of the overwhelming event?*

88:2 *Some faces will be downcast that day, troubled and weary, burnt at the scorching Fire, forced to drink from a fiercely boiling fountain, with only bitter thorns for food, which neither nourishes nor satisfies hunger.*

88:8 *Other faces that day will be joyous, and in a lofty Garden, very pleased with their past efforts. No vain talk will be heard there. There will be gushing fountains. There will be raised couches, and goblets placed nearby, and cushions arranged, and carpets spread out.*

88:17 *Will they consider the camels and how they were made? Or consider how the sky was upraised, and how the mountains are rooted, and how the earth is spread?*

88:21 *Warn them, because you [Mohammed] are merely a warner. You have no authority over them, but whoever turns back and disbelieves, Allah will punish them terribly.*

88:25 *Truly they will return to Us. Then it will be time for Us to settle their accounts.*

After the Day of Doom would come Paradise and Hell.

52:7 *Truly, a punishment from your Lord is coming, and no one can stop it. That day heaven will heave from side to side, and the mountains will shake to pieces. Woe on that day to those who called the messengers liars, who wasted their time in vain disputes.*

52:13 *On that day they will be thrown into the Fire of Hell. This is the Fire that you treated like a lie. What! Do you think that this is magic? Or, do you not see it? Burn there! Bear it patiently, or impatiently. It will all be the same to you, because you will certainly get what you deserve.*

52:17 *But those who have feared Allah will live pleasantly amid Gardens, rejoicing in what their Lord has given them, and what their Lord has protected them from, saying, "Eat and drink in health as a reward for your good deeds." They will recline on arranged couches, and We will marry them to dark-eyed houris [beautiful companions of pleasure].*

52:21 *And the believers, whose children have accepted the faith, We will reunite with their descendents. We will not cheat them of their reward. Every man is pledged to Allah for his actions and his rewards. We will give them abundant fruit and meat. There they will share a cup that holds no idle discourse or motivation to sin. They will be waited on by young boys as beautiful as hidden pearls, and some will gather together and ask one another questions.*

52:26 *"There was a time when we were filled with concerns about the future of our families, but Allah has been kind to us, and He has kept us safe from the torments of Hell, truly. We called upon Him before. He is bountiful and merciful."*

Try to Trick Me

77:8 *Until what day will that time be deferred when the stars lose their light, and when the heaven is split in two, and when the mountains are reduced to dust and scattered, and when the messengers are gathered at their appointed time? To the Day of Judgment! And who will teach you what the Day of Judgment is? Woe on that day to those who reject the truth! Did We not destroy the former generations? We will make the later generations follow them. This is how We deal with evil doers. Woe on that day to those who reject the truth!*

77:20 *Did We not create you from a cloudy fluid that We kept in a safe place [the womb] until an appointed time? This is Our power! Our power is unmatched! Woe on that day to those who reject the truth!*

77:25 *Did We not design the world to contain the living and the dead and place on it tall strong mountains and sweet water to drink? Woe on that day to those who reject the truth!*

77:29 *They will be told, "Go to that Hell that you deny. Go to the shadows of smoke that rise in three columns, where there is no relief or shelter from the flame." The sparks flying out are like towers, yellow like tawny camels. Woe on that day to those who reject the truth!*

77:35 *They cannot speak that day, and they will not be allowed any excuses. Woe on that day to those who reject the truth!*

77:38 *This is the day of sorting, when We will collect you and your ancestors. If you have any tricks, try to trick Me. Woe on that day to those who reject the truth!*

77:41 *Because of your efforts, the righteous will be in a cool, shaded place, with anything they desire to eat and drink contentedly. This is how We reward the good. Woe on that day to those who reject the truth!*

77:46 *Eat and drink a little while. Surely you are sinners. Woe on that day to those who reject the truth!*

77:48 *When they are told to bow down, they do not bow down. Woe on that day to those who reject the truth! After this what revelation will they believe in?*

We Have Specially Made for Them Houris

56:1 *When the inevitable day of terror arrives, no one will treat its sudden arrival as a lie. That day many will be crushed! That day some will be exalted!*

56:4 *When the earth is shaken to its core, and the mountains crumble to powder and become scattered dust, and the people are divided into three groups, the people of the right hand—Oh, how happy the people of the right hand will be!*

56:9 *The people of the left hand—Oh, how wretched they will be!*

56:10 *The people who were foremost on earth [the first to follow Mohammed], they will be foremost in the hereafter. A large number of those who lived before are the people who will be brought close to Allah, in Gardens of delight. A few of those who lived later [after Islam was well established] will be on decorated couches, reclining on them face to face. They will be waited on by immortal young boys with goblets and ewers and a cup of pure wine that gives no headache nor muddles the mind, and with fruits that are most pleasing, and with the flesh of birds that they desire. In compensation for their past good deeds, they will have houris [heavenly companions of pleasure] with big, dark eyes like pearls peeking from their shells. They will not hear any vain or sinful talk, only the cry, "Peace! Peace!"*

56:27 *The people of the right-hand—Oh! How happy the people of the right-hand will be resting on raised couches amid thornless sidrahs [plum trees] and tall trees [banana trees], thick with fruit, and in extended shade and constantly flowing waters, and abundant fruits, neither forbidden nor out of reach. And We have specially made for them houris, companions, chaste and pure virgins, lovers and friends of equal age with them for the people of the right hand, a large number of the people of old, and a large number of the people of the latter generations.*

56:41 *The people of the left-hand—Oh, how wretched the people of the left-hand will be amid scorching winds and scalding water, and in the shade of black smoke, neither cool nor refreshing. Formerly they were blessed with worldly pleasures, yet they persisted in terrible sin and used to say, "What*

will be resurrected after we have died and crumbled to bone and dust? What about our fathers, the men of old?"

56:49 *Say: Yes, the former and the latter. They will all be gathered at the appointed hour.*

56:51 *Then those who denied [Mohammed was a prophet] and erred will certainly eat from the Ez-zakkoum tree [a tree of Hell], and they will gorge themselves with it. Then they will drink scalding water and will drink like a thirsty camel. This will be their feast on the Judgment Day!*

Which of Your Lord's Blessings Would You Deny?

55:33 *Oh, assembly of jinn and men, if you can cross the bounds of the heavens and the earth, then cross them. You will never cross them without Our permission. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?*

55:35 *A flash of Fire and molten brass will be hurled at both of you, and you will have no defense against it. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?*

55:37 *When the sky is split in two and becomes red like stained leather, which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?*

55:39 *On that day neither man nor jinn will be asked about his sin. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?*

55:41 *The guilty will be recognized by their marks [dark faces], and they will be grabbed by their forelocks and their feet. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?*

55:43 *This is the Hell that the guilty deny. They will wander around between it and boiling hot water. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?*

55:46 *But there will be two Gardens for those who fear to stand before their Lord. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?*

55:48 *Gardens with branches spreading out from every kind of tree. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?*

55:50 *In them (each) will be two springs flowing (free): Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?*

55:52 *In them will be two kinds of every fruit. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?*

55:54 *They will recline on couches lined with silk brocade, and the fruit of both Gardens will be within arms reach. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?*

55:56 *There will be bashful virgins who gaze modestly, who have never been touched by either man nor jinn. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?*

55:58 *As lovely as rubies and pearls: which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?*

55:60 *Should the reward for goodness be anything but goodness? Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?*

55:62 *And besides these there are two other gardens, dark green with foliage. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?*

55:66 *With gushing fountains in each. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?*

55:68 *In each, fruits and palms and pomegranates. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?*

55:70 *In each, fair and beautiful virgins. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?*

55:72 *With large dark eyes, they are closely guarded in pavilions. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?*

55:74 *They have never been touched by either man nor jinn. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?*

55:76 *They recline on green cushions and beautiful carpets. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?*

55:78 *Blessed be the name of your Lord, full of majesty and glory.*

1161 There was added a new element to the religion. Any person who rejected the revelations of Mohammed would be eternally punished. The culture of religious tolerance in Mecca now had a new religion which preached the end of tolerance. Only Islam was acceptable.

68:42 *On the day when men's legs will be laid bare, and they are called upon to bow in adoration, they will not be able. Their eyes will be downcast. Shame will overwhelm them, because when they were protected, they were called to bow down in worship, but they refused.*

68:44 *Leave Me alone to deal with those who reject this revelation. We will lead them by degrees to their ruin by ways they will be unaware of. I will bear with them a long time, because My plan is firm.*

68:46 *Do you [Mohammed] demand payment from them so that they are burdened with debt? Do they have knowledge of secret things? Have they written them down?*

68:48 *Wait patiently for your Lord's Judgment, and do not be like him [Jonah] who was swallowed by the whale, when he cried out in distress to Allah. If his Lord's favor had not reached him, he would have been cast forth on the naked shore, overwhelmed with shame. But his Lord chose him and placed him among the just.*

68:51 *The Kafirs will practically kill you with their eyes when they hear the warnings [of the Koran], and they will say, "He is certainly insane."*

68:52 *But it is a warning to all creation.*

1166 Since the word was out, Mohammed began to openly preach his new doctrine. He had been private for three years before he went public.

The first of many parables was given:

68:17 *Surely, We have tried them [the Meccans] as We tried the owners of the garden, when they swore they would harvest its fruit in the morning; but added no exception [by saying, "If it is the will of Allah"]. Then an encompassing plague from your Lord swept through it while they slept, and by the morning the garden was barren, as if all its fruit had been cut.*

68:21 *At dawn they called to each other, "Go to your fields early if you want to cut your dates." So they went, quietly whispering to each other, "No poor man will enter your garden today." And so they went out at dawn to their fields with this purpose in mind.*

68:26 *But when they saw the garden, they said, "Surely we have gone astray. Indeed, our harvest is destroyed." The best among them said, "Did I not say to you, 'Why do you refuse to praise Allah?'" They said, "Glory to our Lord! Surely we have done wrong."*

68:30 *Then they began to blame one another, and they said, "Woe to us! We were insolent! Perhaps our Lord will give us a better garden in exchange. Surely we beg this from our Lord."*

68:33 *This has been their punishment, but the punishment of the hereafter is even greater, but they did not know this. Surely the Allah-fearing will be in Gardens of Delight in the presence of their Lord. Should We deal with those who have submitted to Allah like We do those who offend him? What has happened to you [Kafirs] to make you judge as you do? Do you have a Scripture from which you can learn how you can have the things that you choose? Or have you received an oath from Us, binding until Judgment Day, that you will have everything you demand? Ask them [the Kafirs] who will guarantee this? Or do they have other gods? Let them bring their other gods if they are telling the truth.*

The qualities of Allah were given:

56:57 *We created you, will you refuse to give Us credit? Have you thought about the sperm that you produce? Did you create it, or did We? We have decreed that death be a part of your life; yet that does not prevent Us from replacing you with others, either like yourselves, or in forms that you cannot imagine! You know of the first forms of creation: do you not reflect? Have you considered what you sow? Do you cause it to grow, or do We? If We wished We could make your harvest so dry and brittle that you would be amazed and say, "Truly we are indebted, but we are denied our harvest."*

56:68 *Have you considered the water that you drink? Do you send it down from the clouds, or do We? We could make it brackish if We wished. Would you be thankful then?*

56:71 *Have you considered the fire that you obtain by friction? Did you make the trees, or did We? We made it for a memorial and to benefit the desert travelers, therefore praise the name of your Lord, the Great.*

114:1 *Say: He is the only god: Allah, the Eternal!*

112:3 *No one is born of Him, and He is born of no one; and there is no one like Him.*

The Arabs had always believed in jinns, invisible beings created from fire. Now they appeared in the Koran.

114:1 *Say: I seek protection with the Lord of men, the king of men, the judge of men, and from the mischief of gossips, who whisper into the hearts of men tales against the jinn and men.*

51:56 *I created jinn and man only to worship me. I need no livelihood from them, and I do not need them to feed me. Truly, Allah is the sole sustainer, the possessor of power, and the unmovable!*

51:59 *Let those who injure you share the fate of the sinners of old. They should not challenge Me to hasten it. Woe to the Kafirs, because of the day they are threatened with.*

The other deities in Mecca were attacked.

53:19 *Do you see Al-Lat and Al-Ozza, and Manat [Arabic deities] the third idol? What? Do you have male children and Allah female children [Arabs called angels the daughters of Allah]? That is an unfair division!*

53:23 *These are mere names. You and your fathers gave them these names. Allah has not acknowledged them. They follow only their own conceits and desires, even though their Lord has already given them guidance.*

53:24 *Will man have everything he desires? The future and the present are in Allah's hands. No matter how many angels are in the heavens, their intercession will do no good, until Allah has permitted entry to whom He pleases and whom He will accept.*

53:27 *Surely, the ones who give female names to the angels are the ones who do not believe in the hereafter, but of this they have no knowledge. They are following a guess, and a guess cannot replace the truth.*

53:29 *Stay away from those who turn their backs on Our warnings and desire only the present life. This is all that they know. Truly, your Lord knows everything about those who stray from his path, and He knows everything about those who have accepted his guidance. Whatever is in the heavens and on the earth belongs to Allah. He may reward evildoers according to their own deeds and those who do good will be rewarded with good things.*

53:32 *Surely, your Lord is filled with forgiveness for those who avoid great sins and shameful acts and only commit minor sins. He knew you well when He brought you out of the earth and when you were in your mother's womb. Do not try to justify yourself. He knows the Allah-fearing people the best.*

The early Koran of Mecca is marked by many oaths by Allah.

92:1 *By the night when she spreads her veil, by the day when it shines bright and by Him who made man and woman – certainly you strive for many goals!*

86:1 *By the heaven and the morning star! Who will teach you what the morning star is? It is the star of piercing brightness. A guardian is set over every soul.*

86:11 *I swear by the heaven that completes its cycle and by the earth that bursts with new growth, that this [the Koran] is the final word, and it is not an amusement.*

91:1 *By the sun and its midday brightness! By the moon when she follows him! By the day when it reveals his [the sun's] glory! By the night when it [the moon] covers him [the sun]! By the heaven and Him who built it! By the earth and Him who spread it! By the soul and by Him who formed it, and breathed into it its perception of right and wrong. Blessed is he who has kept it pure, and cursed is he who has corrupted it!*

95:1 *I swear by the fig and the olive, by Mount Sinai, and by this inviolate land [Mecca]! We have created man in a noble image then reduced him to the lowest of the low, except those who believe and do the right things, because their reward will never fail.*

95:7 *Then, who can convince you that the judgment is a lie? Is Allah not the best of judges?*

51:1 *By the winds that move far and wide and carry their load of laden clouds, and by those that speed and those that distribute blessings by command!*

52:1 *By Mount Sinai, and the Scriptures written on an outspread scroll, and by the often-visited house [the Kabah in Mecca], and by the lofty roof [the sky], and by the swollen sea,*

56:75 *It is not necessary for Me to swear by the setting of the stars. That is a great oath, if you know it, that this is indeed the honorable Koran, written in the guarded book which only the purified may touch. It is a revelation from the Lord of the worlds.*

103:1 *I swear by the declining day!*

103:2 *Certainly, man's fate is cast amidst destruction, except for those who believe and do good and urge others to the truth and to be steadfast.*

85:1 *By the star-sprinkled heaven! By the promised Day of Judgment! By the witness and the witnessed!*

77:1 *By the winds sent forth, one after another; by the raging hurricanes, which scatter clouds then separate them from one another; and by those that bring forth the word either to excuse or warn; surely, that which you have been promised is coming.*

89:1 *I swear by the daybreak and ten nights [the first ten nights of a sacred month], by the even and the odd, and by the night when it departs. Is this not an oath for a sensible man?*

Mohammed's task in Mecca was difficult.

52:29 *Therefore, continue to warn men. By the grace of your Lord, you are neither insane, nor a soothsayer.*

52:30 *Will people say, "He is a poet! Let us wait until his fortunes turn." Say: "Wait," because truthfully, I will wait with you.*

52:32 *Is it their dreams that cause them to do this? Or is it because they are a perverse people? Will they say, "He has written it [the Koran] himself?" No! It is because they did not believe. If that is true, let them write a book like it.*

52:35 *Were they created from nothing? Did they create themselves? Did they create the heavens and the earth? No! It is because they have no faith. Do they possess your Lord's treasures? Do they have absolute power? Can they communicate with the angels? If so, let them bring proof.*

52:39 *Does Allah have daughters while you have sons? Do you ask them for a payment so that they are weighed down with debt? Do they have secret knowledge that they can write down? Do they try to set traps for you? The Kafirs are the ones that are ensnared. Do they have any gods besides Allah? Glory be to Allah above the false gods they join with Him. If they saw a piece of the sky falling, they would say, "It is only a dense cloud."*

52:45 *Ignore them until they meet the day when they will swoon with terror—a day when their tricks will avail them nothing and no help will come their way. Truly, there is another punishment for the evildoers, but most of them do not know it.*

52:48 *Wait patiently for your Lord's Judgment, because you are in Our eye. Sing Allah's praises when you rise up, and give Him praise at night and when the stars are setting.*

And Your Companion [Mohammed] Is Not Insane

81:1 *When the sun ceases to shine and the stars fall; when the mountains fall to pieces; when the she-camels are abandoned; when the wild animals are herded together; when the seas boil; when souls are rejoined with their bodies; when the female child that had been buried alive is asked for what crime was she killed; when the books are opened; when the sky is torn away; when Hell is ignited; when Paradise is brought near, every soul will know what it has done.*

81:15 *It does not matter that I swear by the planets that rise and set, and by the night as it slips away, and by the dawn as it brightens. This is the word of an honorable messenger [Gabriel], powerful and influential with the Lord of the throne, obeyed by angels, trustworthy, and your companion [Mohammed] is not insane. He saw him [Gabriel] clearly on the horizon. Neither does he conceal heaven's secrets, nor does he teach Satan's doctrine.*
81:26 *Where then are you going? Surely, this is nothing except a warning to all creatures who are willing to walk the straight path, but you will not, unless Allah, the Lord of the worlds, wills it.*

The Koran contains encouragement for Mohammed:

94:1 *Did We not open your heart for you [Mohammed] and relieve you of the burden that hurt your back? And did We not improve your reputation? So, certainly, with every hardship there is relief. Certainly, with every hardship there is relief.*
94:7 *When you are through with prayers, you should continue to work. Do everything you can to please your Lord.*

Mohammed worked on a daily basis to convert others. One day he had brushed off a blind man as he tried to convert a rich man.

80:1 *He [Mohammed] frowned and turned his back, because the blind man came to him. But what convinced you that he would not be purified by the faith, or be warned, and the warning might profit him?*
80:5 *As for the wealthy man, you give him all your attention, but it is not your concern if he is not purified. Not only that, but you neglect the man who comes to you striving earnestly, and full of fears.*

Mohammed spent a great deal of time arguing with the Meccans and telling them that they were doomed to Hell if they rejected him and his message.

84:1 *When the sky is split in half and obeys its Lord, as it must; when the earth is flattened, and has cast out everything it contains and is empty [the graves deliver the dead], and obeys its Lord, as it must; then certainly those who want to meet their Lord will meet Him.*
84:7 *He who receives his book [of life's deeds] in his right hand [saved in Paradise], his account will be taken by a quick and easy reckoning and he will return joyously to his people. But those who receive their book behind their backs [damned to Hell] will invite destruction. They will burn in the Fire. They lived joyously among their people because they did not believe that they would return to Allah, but their Lord is always watching them.*
84:16 *So I do not need to swear by the glow of sunset, and by the night and everything it conceals, and by the moon at its fullest. You will certainly travel from stage to stage.*

84:20 *What is wrong with those who do not believe? When the Koran is read to them, why do they refuse to bow down? The Kafirs call it a lie.*

84:23 *But Allah knows their secrets, so announce to them a painful punishment. Those who believe and do good deeds, they will have a reward that never ends.*

Hell Lies in Wait

78:1 *What do they ask one another? About the great news [the Koran], the source of their disputes? No, but they will learn the truth! No! No, but they will learn the truth!*

78:6 *Did We not make the earth a great tent and the mountains its tent-pegs? We created you with two sexes, and created sleep so that you may rest. We created the night as a covering, and created the day to seek a livelihood, and built above you seven substantial heavens, and placed on it a burning lamp. We send down from the clouds abundant rainwater to produce fruits and vegetables and thickly wooded gardens.*

78:17 *Surely, the day of decision is fixed, when a trumpet will sound and you will come in droves, and heaven will be opened with countless gates, and the mountains will vibrate and vanish into thin air. Hell lies in wait, the home of transgressors, where they will live for ages. They will taste nothing cool and drink nothing except boiling and freezing water. A just reward!*

78:27 *They did not think about their account, and they did not believe Our revelations, but We paid attention and wrote everything down, so taste the fruit of your actions. You will get nothing else except torment.*

78:31 *But the Allah-fearing will be fulfilled with enclosed Gardens and vineyards and voluptuous women of equal age [houris] and a full cup [of wine that produces no hangover]. No vain or false talk will be heard there. A reward from your Lord and a fitting gift!*

78:37 *Lord of the heavens and of the earth, and of all that lies between, the merciful Allah! None will be able to speak with him. On the day that the spirit and the angels will stand in ranks, none will speak unless Allah permits, and then only those who speak rightly. This is the sure day. Whoever will, let him take the path back to his Lord.*

78:40 *Surely, We warn you that punishment is near. The day is near when men will see the deeds that their hands have done and when the Kafir will say, "Oh, I wish I were dust!"*

Their Entertainment Will Be Scalding Water

56:81 *Will you scorn this announcement? Will you make denial your livelihood?*

56:83 *Why, then—when the soul of a dying man comes up his throat, and you are staring at him, though We are closer to him than you, although*

you do not see Us—why then, if you are to escape Judgment, cause that soul to return? Tell Me, then, if you speak the truth.

56:88 As for him that is brought near Allah, he will live in pleasure and repose in a Garden of Delights. If he is one of the people of the right hand, he will be greeted by others of the right hand with, “Peace be with you.”

56:92 But those who mistakenly treat the prophets as deceivers, their entertainment will be scalding water, and the broiling of Hellfire. Surely this is a certain truth. Therefore, praise the name of your Lord, the Great.

70:36 But what has happened to the Kafirs that causes them to rush madly around you, on the right and left-hand, in droves? Does every one of them hope to enter the Garden of Delight? Certainly not! We have created them, and they know from what.

70:40 It does not matter that I swear by the Lord of the East and the West that We have the power to replace them with others better than themselves, and We will not be stopped.

70:42 So let them gossip and play until they come face to face with the day they are promised, the day when they hastily rise from their graves like men rushing toward a goal with their eyes downcast and disgrace covering them. That is the day they are promised.

This Is a Warning

73:10 Listen to what they [Kafirs] say with patience, and leave them with dignity. Let me deal with the wealthy and those who deny the truth. Bear with them for a while, because We have strong shackles and a raging Fire and food that chokes and a painful punishment. The day will come when the earth and the mountains will be shaken, and the mountains will become dust.

73:15 Certainly We have sent an apostle to bear witness against you [the world], just as We sent an apostle to Pharaoh, but Pharaoh rejected the apostle, and We punished him severely. If you refuse to believe, how will you protect yourself from the day that will turn your children’s hair gray? The heavens will be torn apart. His promise will be fulfilled. This is a warning. Let those who will, find a path to his Lord.

The Meccans said that there was no Day of Doom. The Koran:

79:1 I swear by those angels who snatch out the souls of the wicked, and by those who gently draw out the souls of the blessed, by those who glide along, by those who race forward; and by those who govern the universe!

79:6 On the day when the first trumpet sounds and a second blast follows, men’s hearts will pound, and their eyes will be downcast. The Kafirs will ask, “Will we be brought back to life even after we have become dust and bones?” They will say, “What is the good in that?” But there will be only one shout, and they will be awakened.

79:27 *Which is harder to create, you, or the heaven that He built? He has raised it high and given it order. He gave darkness to the night and brought out its light. Afterwards He spread the earth and produced from it the water and the pastures and set the mountains firmly for you and your cattle to enjoy.*

79:34 *But when the great disaster comes, the day when men will reflect upon their efforts and Hell is in full view of everyone, then for those who rebelled and preferred the life of this world, surely, Hell will be their home.*

79:40 *But those who fear to stand before their Lord and have restrained their souls from lust, surely, Paradise will be their home. They will ask you about the Hour and when it will come. But what knowledge do you have of it?*

79:44 *Its arrival is known only to your Lord, and you are only responsible for warning those who fear it. On the day when they see it, it will seem to them that they had been waiting only an evening, or maybe until the following morning.*

Woe on That Day to Those Who Deny Our Signs

83:1 *Woe to the cheaters who always demand full measure from others, but skimp when they measure out or weigh to others. What! Do they believe that they will not be resurrected on the great day when all men will stand before the Lord of the worlds? Yes! The register [a record of actions] of the wicked is in Sidjin [a place in Hell where the sinners' records are kept]. And who will make you understand what Sidjin is? It is a complete record.*

83:10 *Woe on that day to those who deny Our signs, who regard the Judgment Day as a lie! No one regards it as a lie except the transgressor or the criminal, who, when Our signs are recited to him, says, "Old wives tales!" No! Their habits have become like rust on their hearts. Yes, they will be veiled from their Lord's light that day. Then they will be burned in Hell. They will be told, "This is what you called a lie."*

83:18 *No! But the register of the righteous is in Illiyoun [a place in Paradise where the actions of the righteous are recorded]. And who will make you understand what Illiyoun is? It is a complete record, attested to by the angels nearest Allah.*

83:22 *Surely, the righteous will live among delights! Seated on bridal couches they will gaze around. You will see the delight in their faces. Fine wines, sealed with musk, will be given them to drink. For those who have aspirations, aspire for wine mixed with the waters of Tasnim, a fountain where those close to Allah drink.*

83:29 *Sinners used to jeer at the believers and wink at one another when one passed by, and they jested as they returned to their own people. When*

they see believers, they say, "Those people have gone astray." And yet they were not sent to be the guardians of those people.

83:34 On that day the faithful will mock the Kafirs, while they sit on bridal couches and watch them. Should not the Kafirs be paid back for what they did?

Cursed Are the Liars

51:5 Truly, that which threatens you [the Meccans] is real. The Judgment will certainly happen. I swear by the star-tracked heaven!

51:8 You [Mohammed] are confused as what to say, but those who turn from the truth are turned aside by divine decree.

51:10 Cursed are the liars, who stumble along in the depths of ignorance! They ask, "When is the Judgment Day?" They will be tormented by the flames that day. "Have a taste of your torment, whose imminent arrival you denied."

51:15 But the Allah-fearing will live in Paradise amid gardens and fountains, enjoying what their Lord has given them, because they lived a good life. They slept little at night, and at dawn they prayed for forgiveness, and they gave a proper share of their wealth to the poor and outcast.

51:20 There are signs on earth for men of strong belief, and also in ourselves. Will you not see them? In heaven there is sustenance for you and a warning. By the Lord of the heaven and the earth, I swear that this is the truth, as surely as you speak.

Not only were the present day Meccans going to Hell if they did not follow Mohammed, history was full of those who were doomed to Hell for ignoring the message of Allah.

91:11 The tribe of Thamud [Thamud was a trade town in ruins north of Mecca] proudly rejected the message of the Lord. When the greatest sinner among them rushed forward, the apostle of the Lord said to them, "It is the she-camel of Allah! Let her drink." But they called him a liar and hamstringed her, so their Lord destroyed them for their crime, one and all, and He did not fear the consequences.

The Sky Will Be Split in Two

69:1 The Inevitable! Who will make you understand what the Inevitable is?

69:3 The people of Thamud and Ad [Ad lay on an old trade route north of Mecca. It was abandoned in Mohammed's day] regarded the Judgment Day as a lie. The people of Thamud were destroyed by crashing thunderbolts. The people of Ad were destroyed by a roaring blast of wind. The wind did Allah's bidding against them for a full week. During that time you could have seen the people laid low, as if they had been the trunks of hollow palms. Could you have seen any of them surviving?

69:9 *Pharaoh, too, and those who thrived before him, and the overthrown cities, all committed sin, and disobeyed the messenger sent by their Lord. That is why He punished them with an accumulated punishment.*

69:11 *When the flood rose high, We carried you in the ark so We could use that event to warn you and so the hearing ear might hear it. But when one blast is sounded on the trumpet, and the earth and the mountains are shaken, and both are simultaneously crushed into powder, on that day the woe that must come suddenly will come, and the sky will be split in two, because it will be fragile that day. The angels will align on the edges of the sky and over them. Eight will carry up the throne of your Lord.*

69:18 *On that day you will be brought before Him and none of your secrets will remain secret. Those who receive their book in their right hand will say to their friends, "Take my book and read it. I always knew that I would come to my reckoning." And he will have a life of bliss, in a lofty Garden, with clusters of fruit nearby. Eat and drink with satisfaction. This is the reward for the good acts that you performed in the past.*

69:25 *But those who receive their book with their left hand will say, "Oh, I wish that I were never given my book and that I had never heard of my reckoning! I wish that death had been the end of me! My wealth has done me no good! My power has fled from me!"*

69:30 *Take him, and chain him, and cast him into Hell. Then fasten him to a seventy-yard chain, because he did not believe in Allah, the Greatest, and did not help to feed the poor. He will have no friends here that day, no food, only the pus that runs from sores, which only the sinners eat.*

69:38 *I do not need to swear by what you see and by that which you do not see—that this is surely the word of an honored messenger! It is not the word of a poet—you have so little faith! It is also not the word of a soothsayer—you heed little of Our warning! It is a message from the Lord of the worlds.*

69:44 *If he [Mohammed] had invented any of Our revelations, We would have grabbed him by the right hand, and cut his throat, and We would not have protected him from any of you.*

69:48 *But, surely, the Koran is a warning for the Allah-fearing. We know many think it is a lie. But it will cause grief for the Kafirs, because it is the absolute truth.*

69:52 *Praise the name of your Lord, the Greatest.*

I Am Sent by Him to Warn You.

51:41 *When We sent a desolating blast against Ad, it left nothing in its wake, but turned everything to dust. And in Thamud, they were told, "Enjoy yourself while you still have time." But they rebelled against their Lord's command, and so the tempest overtook them as they stood by and watched. They were powerless and unable to stand. Before them, We had destroyed the people of Noah because they were wicked.*

51:47 *We have built the heaven with Our might and raised it up high and made it vast. We have built the earth and stretched it out like a great carpet. How smooth We have spread it out! We created everything in pairs—you should remind yourselves of that.*

51:50 *Run to Allah. I am sent by Him to warn you. Do not worship other gods beside Allah. I am sent by Him to warn you.*

51:52 *Every apostle that came before was denied and called, “Sorcerer,” or “insane.” Have these people made a tradition of their mockery? Yes, they are rebellious people. Turn away from them, and you will not be blamed. Instead warn them, because, truthfully a warning will help the believers.*

On That Day When the Earth Is Crushed to Powder

89:6 *Have you thought about how your Lord dealt with the people of Ad, at Irem with the many unique pillars? Or with the people of Thamud who hewed out the rocks in the valley? [Ad, Thamud and Irem were destroyed because they did not listen to their prophets] Or with Pharaoh who impaled his victims on a stake? All of them committed excesses in the lands and increased wickedness there. This is the reason your Lord poured on them the scourge of chastisement. Your Lord is always watchful.*

89:15 *As for man, when his Lord tries him and honors him and is generous to him, he says, “My Lord honors me.” But when He tries him and limits his gifts to him, he says, “My Lord despises me.” No, but you do not honor the orphan, and you do not urge others to feed the poor, and you devour inheritances with insatiable greed, and you love riches with inordinate love.*

89:21 *No, on that day when the earth is crushed to powder, and Your Lord comes, and the angels are arranged by rank, and Hell is brought near, men will remember, but will that memory help them? He will say, “Oh, I wish that I had spent my life preparing for this!” On that day none will punish like Allah will punish, and none can bind like Allah will bind.*

89:27 *Oh, soul that rests, return to your Lord, pleased, and pleasing Him. You may enter among My servants and enter into My Paradise.*

Surely, Your Lord’s Punishment Is Terrible

85:4 *The makers of the pit of the fuel-fed Fire are cursed because they sat by it witnessing what they inflicted on the believers! These witnesses tormented the believers only because of their faith in Allah, the mighty. The heavens and the earth are his kingdom; Allah is the witness of all things.*

85:10 *Certainly, those who persecuted the believers, men and women, and did not repent, await the torments of Hell, and the torments of burning. But those who believe and do good things shall have the Gardens [Paradise] where underground rivers flow. This is the great triumph.*

85:12 *Surely, your Lord's punishment is terrible! It is He who produces all things and causes them to be reproduced. He is the indulgent, the loving, the possessor of the glorious throne, the builder of all He wills.*

85:17 *Have you not heard the story of the armies of Pharaoh and Thamud? No! The Kafirs live in denial, but Allah surrounds them all. It is a glorious Koran written on an eternal tablet.*

1166 The Muslims went to the edge of Mecca to pray in order to be alone. One day a group of the Quraysh came upon them and began to mock them and a fight started. Sad, a Muslim, picked up the jaw bone of a camel and struck one of the Quraysh with it and bloodied him. This violence was the first blood to be shed in Islam.

1167 When Mohammed spoke about his new religion, it did not cause any problems among the Meccans. Then Mohammed began to condemn their religion and rituals and worship. This was a new phenomena. New religions could be added and had been, but not to the detriment to others. The Meccans took offense and resolved to treat him as an enemy. Luckily, he had the protection of his influential uncle, Abu Talib.

1168 Some of the Quraysh went to Abu Talib, Mohammed's tribal protector, and said to him, "Your nephew has cursed our gods, insulted our religion, mocked our way of life, criticized our civilization, attacked our virtues, and said that our forefathers were ignorant and in error. You must stop him, or you must let us stop him. We will rid you of him." Abu Talib gave them a soft reply and sent them away.

1169 The Quraysh saw that Abu Talib would not help. Mohammed continued to preach Islam and attack them and their lives. Mecca was a small town, everybody knew everybody. Islam had split the town of Mecca and divided the ruling and priestly tribe. The Quraysh were attacked at the very ground of their social being.

1170 Things got much worse. Now there was open hostility in the town. Quarrels increased, arguments got very heated. Complete disharmony dominated the town. The tribe started to abuse the recently converted Muslims. But Mohammed's uncle Abu Talib was a respected elder and was able to protect them from real harm.

THE FAIR

Mecca was a town with two sources of money from the outside. The first was trading, and Mohammed had made his money in the caravan trade. The other was the fees from the pilgrims to the shrine of the Kabah. Fairs combined a little of both. All the tribes came for a fair. People would see old acquaintances and buy, sell or trade goods. Since Mecca was one

of several sacred or pilgrim sites, rituals for the different tribal gods were performed around the Kabah and Mecca.

1171 It was time for the fair and the Quraysh were in turmoil. They were desperate that the divisions and rancor that had come with Mohammed's preaching not spread to the other clans outside Mecca. So a group of concerned Quraysh talked and decided to meet with Al Walid, a man of respect and influence. He told them that all the visitors would come to them and ask about this man Mohammed and what he was preaching. It was a foregone conclusion that Mohammed would preach and people would ask.

1171 But what could they agree on to tell the visitors so that there could be one voice. What would they call him? Was he possessed? Crazy? An ecstatic poet? A sorcerer? Who was he? What was he? Finally they agreed upon Mohammed being a sorcerer since he separated a son from his father or brother or wife or from his family.

68:1 *NUN*¹. *By the pen and by what the angels write, by the grace of your Lord, you [Mohammed] are not possessed! Certainly, a limitless reward awaits you, because you have a noble nature, but you will see and they will see, which of you is insane.*

68:7 *Your Lord knows the man who strays from His path, and He knows who has been guided. Do not listen to those who treat you like a liar. They want you to compromise with them so that they may compromise with you.*

68:10 *Do not listen to the despicable person, who readily swears oaths, a defamer, going about with slander, enemy of the good, a transgressor, a criminal. He is cruel and impure from birth, though wealthy and blessed with sons. When Our wonderful verses are recited to him, he says "Fables of the ancients." We will brand him on the nose.*

53:1 *By the star when it sets, your companion [Mohammed] is not wrong, nor is he misled, and he does not speak out of his own desire.*

53:4 *This [the Koran] is a revelation only to him. The Lord of mighty power filled it with wisdom and taught it to him. Allah appeared in a stately form in the highest part of the horizon. He approached and came nearer, at a distance of about two bow-lengths, or even closer, and he gave his revelation to his servant.*

53:11 *His heart did not invent what he saw. What! Will you dispute with him what he saw? He had seen Gabriel before, near the Sidrah-tree [a shade tree], which marks the boundary near the Garden of repose. When*

1. Several chapters begin with Arabic letters such as NUN. Their meaning is not known.

the Sidrah-tree was mysteriously covered, his eye did not turn away, nor did it wander because he saw his Lord's greatest sign.

1171 So the Meccans split up and went out on the roadsides of town to speak with the travelers before they even arrived at Mecca.

1171 Mohammed delivered a message from Allah about Al Walid, the leader of the Kafirs. Indeed, many of the rich and powerful, who resisted Mohammed, earned their place in the Koran. The Koran gives such precise details and direct quotes of their arguments that if you were a Meccan of that day, you would know exactly who the person was.

96:6 *No, man is certainly stubborn. He sees himself as wealthy. Certainly, all things return to your Lord.*

96:9 *What do you think of a man [Abu Jahl] who holds back a servant of Allah [Mohammed] when he prays? Do you think that he is on the right path, or practices piety? Do you think that he treats the truth as a lie and turns his back? Does he not know that Allah sees everything?*

96:15 *No! Certainly if he does not stop, We will grab him by the forelock [cutting off or holding by the forelock was a shame in Arabic culture], the lying, sinful forelock! Let him call his comrades [the other Meccans]. We will call the guards of Hell. No, do not obey him, rather, adore and get closer to Allah.*

This Is Nothing but Old Magic

74:11 *Let Me deal with My creations, whom I have given great riches and sons to sit by their side, and whose lives I have made smooth and comfortable. And still he [Al Walid] wants me to give him more. No, I say. He is an enemy of Our revelations. I will impose a dreadful punishment on him because he plotted and planned.*

74:19 *Damn him! How he planned. Again, Damn him! How he planned.*

74:21 *Then he looked around and frowned and scowled and turned his back with vain pride and said, "This is nothing but old magic; it is the work of a mere mortal."*

74:26 *We will certainly throw him into Hell.*

74:27 *What will make you realize what Hell is? It leaves nothing, and it spares nothing. It chars the skin.*

74:30 *Nineteen angels oversee it. The angels are the only guardians of Hell, and We have set their number to confuse the Kafirs and to give the believers certain knowledge of the truth of the Koran so the believers will increase their faith. So the believers and the others who have received the Scriptures have no doubts. The weak of heart and the Kafirs will ask, "What does Allah mean by this parable?" This is how Allah confuses whom He will and how He guides whom He chooses: no one knows the armies of your Lord except Allah himself. This is nothing but a warning to men.*

74:35 *No, by the moon and by the night as it retreats and by the dawn as it breaks, Hell is one of the most dreadful woes filled with warning to men, to any who choose to go forward [believers] or to any who choose to stay behind [Kafirs].*

74:38 *Every soul is pledged for its own deeds except those that stand on Allah's right hand. In their gardens they will ask the wicked: "What has brought you to Hell?"*

74:43 *They will say, "We did not pray, we did not feed the hungry, we argued with the small-minded, and we denied the Judgment Day until our dying day."*

74:48 *No mediation or intercession will help them. What is wrong with them that they reject Our warning like a frightened donkey fleeing a lion? Each of them wants to have everything spelled out, but that cannot be. They do not fear the hereafter.*

74:54 *No! The Koran is warning enough. Anyone who chooses shall be warned. Only if Allah pleases will the people be warned. He is to be feared and often forgiving.*

They Are the People of the Left-Hand

90:1 *No, I swear by this city [Mecca], this city in which you [Mohammed] dwell, and by the father and the child!*

90:4 *Certainly, We have created man to be tried by afflictions. Does he think that no one has power over him? He says, "I have wasted great wealth." Does he think that no one sees him? Have we not given him eyes, and tongue, and lips, and guided him to the two highways?*

90:11 *But he did not attempt the steep road. Who will teach you what the steep road is? It is to free a slave, or to give food during famine to the orphan of a relative, or to the pauper who lies in the dust. It is also, to be a believer and to urge perseverance and compassion upon one another. These are the people of the right hand.*

90:18 *But those who reject Our signs, they are the people of the left-hand. Hellfire will close around them.*

53:33 *Have you considered him who turns his back on the faith? Who is stingy and covets? Does he have secret knowledge, or vision? Has he not been told what is in the book of Moses, and about Abraham and his faithful pledge? Namely, that no bearer of burdens can bear the burden of another.*

53:39 *Man can have nothing except what he works for. Nothing will be credited to a man which he did not earn. His effort will be noted. Then he will be rewarded, totally, justly, and completely. That is the goal of your Lord. He causes laughter and crying, and He causes death and life, and He created the male and female sexes from the fertilized sperm. He has promised a resurrection, and He gives wealth and satisfaction. He is the lord of Sirius*

[the Dog star]. He destroyed the tribe of Ad, and the people of Thamud, and before them, the wicked and perverse people of Noah, and left no survivors. He destroyed the two overthrown cities of Sodom and Gomorrah so that they were ruins.

53:55 *Which of your Lord's blessings would you doubt?*

53:57 *The one who warns you, also warned the people of old. The inevitable day is drawing near and only Allah can reveal the time. Do you marvel at these announcements? And that you laugh and do not cry while you amuse yourself with vanities?*

53:62 *Bow down before Allah and worship.*

Allah Is the Lord of the Ladders

70:1 *A skeptic asked about the punishment soon to befall the Kafirs. No one can prevent Allah from inflicting it. Allah is the Lord of the ladders that the angels and the spirit ascend in a day that lasts fifty thousand years.*

70:5 *So be patient with admirable patience. They think that day is far away, but We see that it is near. The day when the heavens will become like molten brass, and the mountains will become like tufts of wool, and friends do not care about friends, though they are in plain sight of one another. To save himself from the punishment of that day, the wicked would give his children and his wife and his brother and all of his relatives who loved him and everyone on earth, if that could save him.*

70:15 *But no. Because the Fire, dragging him by the scalp, will claim him who turned his back and fled from the truth and amassed and hoarded wealth. Man is truly an impatient creation. He is impatient when evil touches him and miserly when good reaches him.*

111:1 *Let the hands of Abu Lahab [Mohammed's uncle and an opponent] die and let him die! His wealth and attainments will not help him. He will be burned in Hell, and his wife will carry the firewood, with a palm fiber rope around her neck.*

And Slay the Sacrificial Victims

108:1 *Certainly We have given an abundance to you [Mohammed]. Therefore pray to the Lord, and slay the sacrificial victims [ritual killing of animals].*

108:3 *Surely those who hate you will be childless.*

105:1 *Did you not see how your Lord dealt with the army of the elephant?¹ Did He not cause their plans to fail? He sent flocks of birds against them, which pelted them with stones of baked clay, and He made them like the stubble in a field that had been devoured.*

1. In 570 AD an army with an elephant attacked Mecca. The army caught smallpox and retreated.

109:1 *Say: Oh you Kafirs!*

109:2 *I do not worship what you worship, and you do not worship what I worship. I will never worship what you worship, and you will never worship what I worship. You to your religion, me to my religion.*

104:1 *Woe to every slanderer and backbiter who gathers wealth and hordes it for the future. He certainly thinks he will keep his wealth forever. No! He certainly will be flung into Hell, and who will teach you what Hell is?*

104:6 *It is the Fire kindled by Allah that will rise above the hearts of the damned and close over them in towering columns.*

1172 The plan of hurting Mohammed by warning the visitors made everyone more curious. When they heard Mohammed's soaring words from the Koran many visitors were impressed. When they left they took all the stories from Mecca, the Quraysh, the new Muslims and then, of course, Mohammed. Soon all of that part of Arabia was talking.

1178 In what would be very fortuitous for Mohammed, the Arabs of Medina were attracted to Mohammed's message. Since half of their town were Jews, the Arabs of Medina were used to the talk of only one god.