

put our trust. Our Lord, make us not a trial for the wrongdoing people.

87. 'And deliver us by Thy mercy from the disbelieving people.'

تَجْعَلْنَا فِتْنَةً لِّلْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ ﴿٨٧﴾
وَنَجِّنَا بِرَحْمَتِكَ مِّنَ الْقَوْمِ
الْكَافِرِينَ ﴿٨٨﴾

*88. And We spoke to Moses and his brother, *saying*, 'Take, ye twain, *some* houses for your people in Egypt, and make your houses so as to face one another, and observe Prayer. And give glad tidings to the believers.'

وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ مُوسَىٰ وَأَخِيهِ أَن
تَتَوَّآ الْقَوْمَ كَمَا يُحْضِرُ بَيْوتًا ۖ وَاجْعَلُوا
بُيُوتَكُمْ قِبْلَةً ۖ وَاقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ
وَبَشِّرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ ﴿٨٩﴾

*89. And Moses said, 'Our Lord, Thou hast bestowed upon Pharaoh and his chiefs embellishment and wealth in the present life, with the result, our Lord, that they are leading *men* astray from Thy path. Our Lord! destroy their riches and attack their hearts—and they are not going to believe until they see the grievous punishment.'

وَقَالَ مُوسَىٰ رَبَّنَا إِنَّكَ آتَيْتَ فِرْعَوْنَ
وَمَلَآئِكَتَهُ زِينَةً وَأَمْوَالًا فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا
رَبَّنَا لِيُضِلُّوهُنَّ عَنْ سَبِيلِكَ ۖ رَبَّنَا اطْمِسْ
عَلَىٰ أَمْوَالِهِمْ وَاشْدُدْ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِمْ
فَلَا يُؤْمِنُوا حَتَّىٰ يَرَوُا الْعَذَابَ الْأَلِيمَ ﴿٩٠﴾

90. He said, 'Your prayer is accepted.

قَالَ قَدْ أُجِيبَتْ دَعْوَتُكُمْ فَأَسْتَقِيمَا وَلَا

*88. And We spoke to Moses and his brother, *saying*, 'Build houses for your people in *the* city and make your houses **facing in the same direction**, and observe Prayer.

Note: The Arabic words *waj'alū buyūtakum qiblatan* (وَاجْعَلُوا بُيُوتَكُمْ قِبْلَةً) in this verse may mean: facing the Qiblah i.e., the point or place to which the worship is oriented or facing each other or facing in the same direction.

As for the first meaning it is difficult to adopt this because there was no definite Qiblah prescribed for the Children of Israel before the building of the Temple of Solomon.

If the second meaning is preferred then the scenario will be that of houses built facing each other for the purpose of security.

We prefer the third option, meaning: **build your houses facing the same direction**. This has the advantage of enabling all the dwellers of the houses to worship in the same direction which creates a sense of unity and discipline among them.

Immediately after this instruction the believers are admonished to observe Prayer which further strengthens our view. Because the Arabic word *aqīmuṣṣalāta* (اقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ) does not merely enjoin performance of individual Prayer but emphasises the performance of Prayer in congregation.

*89. And Moses said, 'Our Lord, **You have** bestowed upon Pharaoh and his chiefs **ornaments and wealth in this life**. Our Lord, it results only in their leading *people* astray from Your path. Our Lord, obliterate their riches and be severe on their hearts, because *it seems* they would not believe until they see a grievous punishment.'

ء ا i u ا | th ث | h ح | kh خ | dh ذ | s س | ض | ط | ظ | ع | gh غ | q ق | ء

So be ye twain steadfast, and follow not the path of those who know not.'

- *91. And We brought the children of Israel across the sea; and Pharaoh and his hosts pursued them wrongfully and aggressively, till, when *the calamity of* drowning overtook him, he said, 'I believe that there is no God but He in Whom the children of Israel believe, and I am of those who submit *to Him*.'

- *92. What! Now! while thou wast disobedient before *this* and wast of those who create disorder.

93. So this day We will save thee in thy body *alone* that thou mayest be a Sign to those *who come* after thee. And surely, many of mankind are heedless of Our Signs.

R. 10.

94. And We assigned to the children of Israel an excellent abode, and We provided them with good things, and they differed not until there came to them the knowledge. Surely, thy Lord will judge between them on the Day of Resurrection concerning that in which they differed.

95. And if thou art in doubt concerning that which We have sent down to thee, ask those who have been reading the Book before thee. Indeed the truth has come to

تَتَّبِعَنَّ سَبِيلَ الَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٩٠﴾

وَجَاوَزْنَا بِبَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ الْبَحْرَ
فَاتَّبَعَهُمْ فِرْعَوْنُ وَجُنُودُهُ بَغْيًا
وَعَدَاً ۖ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا أَدْرَكَهُ الْعَرْقُ ۖ قَالَ
أَمِنْتُ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا الَّذِي آمَنْتُ بِهِ
بُنَا إِسْرَائِيلَ وَأَنَا مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ ﴿٩١﴾

أَلَمْ تَكُن مِّنَ الْمُفْسِدِينَ ﴿٩٢﴾

فَالْيَوْمَ نُنَجِّيكَ بِبَدَنِكَ لِتَكُونَ
لِمَنِ خَلَقْنَا آيَةً ۚ وَ إِنَّا كَثِيرًا مِّنَ
النَّاسِ عَنِ أَيْتِنَا لَغَفُلُونَ ﴿٩٣﴾

وَلَقَدْ بَوَّأْنَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ مَبْوَآصِدٍ
وَرَزَقْنَاهُمْ مِّنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ ۖ فَمَا اخْتَلَفُوا
حَتَّىٰ جَاءَهُمُ الْعِلْمُ ۖ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ يَقْضِي
بَيْنَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ فِيمَا كَانُوا فِيهِ
يَخْتَلِفُونَ ﴿٩٤﴾

فَإِن كُنْتَ فِي شَكٍّ مِّمَّا أَنزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ
فَسْأَلِ الَّذِينَ يَفْقَرُونَ الْكِتَابَ مِن
قَبْلِكَ ۖ لَقَدْ جَاءَكَ الْحَقُّ مِن رَّبِّكَ

- *91. And We brought the children of Israel across the sea; and Pharaoh and his hosts pursued them **with evil intent and enmity**.

- *92. What! Now! while **you have been disobedient before and were of those who do mischief**.

thee from thy Lord; be not, therefore, of those who doubt.

96. And be not thou of those who reject the Signs of Allāh, or thou shalt be of the losers.

97. Surely, those against whom the word of thy Lord has taken effect will not believe,

98. Even if there come to them every Sign, till they see the grievous punishment.

99. Why was there no *other* people, save the people of Jonah, who should have believed so that their belief would have profited them? When they believed, We removed from them the punishment of disgrace in the present life, and We gave them provision for a while.

100. And if thy Lord had *enforced* His will, surely, all who are on the earth would have believed together. Wilt thou, then, force men to become believers?

101. And no soul can believe except by the permission of Allāh. And He makes *His* wrath *descend* on those who will not use their reason.

102. Say, 'Consider what is *happening* in the heavens and the earth.' But Signs and Warners avail not a people who will not believe.

فَلَا تَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْمُتَكِبِينَ ﴿٩٥﴾

وَلَا تَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الَّذِينَ كَذَبُوا بِآيَاتِ

اللَّهِ فَتَكُونُوا مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ ﴿٩٦﴾

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ حَقَّتْ عَلَيْهِمْ كَلِمَتُ

رَبِّكَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿٩٧﴾

وَلَوْ جَاءَهُمْ كُلُّ آيَةٍ حَتَّى يَرَوْا

الْعَذَابَ الْأَلِيمَ ﴿٩٨﴾

فَلَوْ لَا كَانَتْ قَرْيَةً أَمِنَتْ فَتَنْفَعَهَا

إِيمَانُهَا إِلَّا قَوْمَ يُونُسَ لَمَّا آمَنُوا

كَشَفْنَا عَنْهُمْ عَذَابَ الْخِزْيِ فِي

الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَمَتَّعْنَاهُمْ إِلَىٰ حِينٍ ﴿٩٩﴾

وَلَوْ شَاءَ رَبُّكَ لَأَمَنَّ مِنَ فِي الْأَرْضِ

كُلَّهُمْ جَمِيعًا أَفَأَنْتَ تُكْرِهُ النَّاسَ

حَتَّىٰ يَكُونُوا مُؤْمِنِينَ ﴿١٠٠﴾

وَمَا كَانَ لِنَفْسٍ أَنْ تُؤْمِنَ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِ

اللَّهِ ۚ وَيَجْعَلُ الرَّجْسُ عَلَى الَّذِينَ

لَا يَعْقِلُونَ ﴿١٠١﴾

قُلْ أَنْظَرُوا مَا فِي السَّمُوتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ۚ

وَمَا تَغْنِي الْآيَاتُ وَالتَّذْذِيرُ عَنْ قَوْمٍ لَّا

يُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿١٠٢﴾