

which he had died was very short, because he had not been conscious. Then it was said to him:

﴿No; you remained [like this] for a hundred years. Look at your food and your drink; they have not changed﴾ that is, they remained as they had been, despite the passage of time. This was a great sign of Allah's power, as He kept the food and drink as they had been, and protected them from changing or spoiling, because food and drink are among the quickest of things to spoil.

﴿But look at your donkey﴾, which had died, its flesh and skin had disintegrated and its bones had become scattered

﴿so that We may make of you a sign unto the people﴾ of the power of Allah and His ability to resurrect the dead from their graves, so that this would be a tangible example that you could see with your own eyes, and so that people may know thereby that what the Messengers said is true.

﴿look at the bones, [and see] how We bring them together then clothe them with flesh﴾ – and he saw it with his own eyes as Allah (ﷻ) had described it.

﴿When it had all become clear to him﴾ and he became aware of the power of Allah

﴿he said: I know that Allah has power over all things﴾. The apparent meaning from the context of the verse is that this was a man who did not believe in the resurrection, and Allah willed good for him, wanting to make him a sign for people in three ways:

- 1- The man said: ﴿How can Allah restore this to life when it has died?﴾ If he had been a Prophet or a righteous slave, he would not have said that.
- 2- Allah showed him a sign in his food and drink, and in his donkey and in himself, so that he could see it with his own eyes and affirm what he had denied. The verse does not say that the town mentioned was rebuilt and restored to its former state; there is nothing in the context to indicate that, and there would not be