

﴿confirming what came before it﴾ of the previous books. So it is a judge over them; what it confirms is to be accepted and what it refutes is to be rejected. What you find in the Qur'an of rulings that all previous Messengers agreed upon you will find in other books too, and these (previous books) testify that the Qur'an is truly from Allah. But the People of the Book cannot truly believe in their books if they do not believe in the Qur'an; their disbelief in it undermines their belief in their own books.

Then Allah (ﷻ) says: ﴿and He sent down the Torah﴾ to Moosâ ﴿and the Gospel﴾ to 'Eesâ

﴿before this﴾ that is, before the sending down of the Qur'an ﴿as a guide to humankind﴾. The apparent meaning of this phrase is that it refers to everything mentioned previously, that is, Allah sent down the Qur'an, the Torah and the Gospel as a guide to humankind to steer them away from misguidance, so whoever accepts the guidance of Allah is guided, and whoever does not accept it will remain misguided. ﴿and He sent down the criterion [between right and wrong]﴾ that is, definitive arguments, proof and evidence that point to the right path. Thus Allah explains what people need to know, so that the rulings will remain clear and no one will have any excuse or argument for not believing in Allah and His revelations. Hence He says: ﴿Then those who disbelieve in the revelations of Allah﴾ that is, after He has explained them, and made them clear and removed any ambiguity ﴿will suffer a severe punishment﴾ that no one can imagine how severe it is or comprehend its nature.

﴿and Allah is Almighty﴾ that is, powerful, and nothing is beyond Him ﴿an Avenger﴾ against those who disobey Him.

﴿From Allah, verily nothing is hidden on earth or in the heavens﴾. This is an affirmation that His knowledge encompasses all things, manifest and hidden, visible and invisible, including the foetus in the womb that cannot be seen by other created beings, and of which they have no knowledge at the time when He is caring for it in the