

- 2:21. O people! Worship your Lord, Who created you and those who came before you, that you may become pious;
- 2:22. Who has made the earth a resting-place for you, and the heavens an edifice; and sent down rain from the heavens; and brought forth therewith fruits as a provision for you; so do not set up rivals to Allah when you know better.

This is a general command that is addressed to all people, instructing them to worship Him in a comprehensive way by obeying the commands of Allah, heeding His prohibitions and believing in His words. Thus He commands them to do that for which He created them, as He says:

﴿I have not created the jinn and humans except to worship Me.﴾
(*adh-Dhāriyāt* 51: 56)

Then Allah tells us why it is obligatory to worship Him alone, for He is your Lord Who has bestowed upon you all kinds of blessings: He created you after you were nothing, He created those who came before you and He bestowed upon you blessings both obvious and hidden. He made the earth a resting-place for you, on which you build structures for your benefit; He caused you to cultivate it and till it; He enabled you to travel from one place to another; and He granted you many ways of benefitting from it. He made the heavens an edifice for the earth on which you dwell, and He placed in it benefits that you need, such as the sun, moon and stars.

﴿and sent down rain from the heavens﴾. The word *samā'* (translated here as ﴿heavens﴾) refers to anything that is above you. Hence the commentators said that what is meant by ﴿heavens﴾ (*samā'*) here is the clouds, from which Allah (ﷻ) sends down rain.

﴿and brought forth therewith fruits﴾ this may include other crops such as grains, dates and so on.

﴿as a provision for you﴾, to feed and sustain you so that you might survive by means of it and enjoy it.