

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

لَمْ يَكُنِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ وَالْمُشْرِكِينَ

مُنْفَكِينَ حَتَّى تَأْتِيَهُمُ الْبَيِّنَةُ ﴿١﴾

1. **The disbelievers from among the People of the Book and the idolaters will not desist until a clear sign comes to them.**

رَسُولٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ يَتْلُو صُحُفًا مُّطَهَّرَةً ﴿٢﴾

فِيهَا كُتُبٌ قَيِّمَةٌ ﴿٣﴾

2. **A messenger from Allaah who recites pure scriptures...**
3. **...in which the subject matter is accurate.**

وَمَا تَفَرَّقَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ إِلَّا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَتْهُمْ الْبَيِّنَةُ ﴿٤﴾

4. **Those who were given the scripture divided only after the clear sign had come to them.**

وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ ﴿٥﴾

5. **They had been ordered only to worship Allaah, devoting their religion solely to Him and turning away from other religions.**

حُنَفَاءَ وَيُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُوا الزَّلَّاتَةَ وَذَلِكَ دِينُ الْقَيِّمَةِ ﴿٦﴾

(They were also commanded to) perform salaah and to pay zakaah. This is the true religion.

Before the coming of Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) there were many Mushrikeen, many Jews and many Christians. When Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) came as a guide to them, they adamantly clung to their religions and were not prepared to accept his message without a clear sign of his prophethood. Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) showed them various miracles, the greatest of which was the Qur'aan. In addition to this, they were all well aware of his pure character.

Allaah Ta'ala says, **لَمْ يَكُنِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ وَالْمُشْرِكِينَ مُنْفَكِينَ حَتَّى تَأْتِيَهُمُ الْبَيِّنَةُ** ﴿

"The disbelievers from among the People of the Book and the idolaters will not desist (from kufr) until a clear sign comes to them" i.e. until a witness testifies that they will be successful only if they forsake kufr and accept Islaam. Allaah describes this **"sign"** (witness) as **"A messenger from Allaah who recites pure scriptures in which the subject matter is accurate."** While some commentators state that the **"pure scriptures"** refer to the previous scriptures and the accurate **"subject matter"** refers to the Qur'aan, others are of the opinion that the **"pure scriptures"** refer to the Qur'aan and the accurate **"subject matter"** refers to the contents and Surahs of the Qur'aan. The accurate **"subject matter"** denotes injunctions that are just and that lead to the straight path. Allaah refers to this in Surah Zumar where He states, **"It is an Arabic Qur'aan without any crookedness, so that they fear."** [Surah 39, verse 28]

Although many people accepted the message of Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam), there were many who refused to accept Islaam despite witnessing many signs. A great many of those who refused to accept were the People of the Book (the Jews and the Christians). Although these people were expecting Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) and claimed that they would follow him when he arrived, they eventually divided when Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) came to them; while some believed in him, others did not. Allaah refers to his when He says, **"Those who were given the scripture divided only after the clear sign [Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam)] had come to them."**

Allaah Ta'ala then mentions the commands that the people of the former religions received, much the same as Muslims are commanded. Allaah says, **"They had been ordered only to worship Allaah, devoting their religion solely to Him and turning away from other religions. (They were also commanded to) perform salaah and to pay zakaah. This is the true religion"** i.e. this is the religion of all the Ambiya (A.S). Although the Jews and the Christians were aware of the truth of Islaam, they were rebellious and refused to submit.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ وَالْمُشْرِكِينَ فِي نَارِ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا
أُولَئِكَ هُمْ شَرُّ الْبَرِيَّةِ

6. **Verily the disbelievers from the People of the Book and the idolaters shall abide forever in the fire of Jahannam. These are the worst of creation.**

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ أُولَئِكَ هُمْ خَيْرُ الْبَرِيَّةِ

7. **Indeed those who believe and who carry out good deeds are certainly the best of creation.**

جَزَاءُهُمْ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ جَنَّاتُ عَدْنٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا

8. **Their reward with their Rabb is eternal gardens where they shall abide forever and ever.**

رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ

Allaah is pleased with them and they are pleased with Him.

ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ خَشِيَ رَبَّهُ

This is for him who fears his Rabb.

In the above verses, Allaah Ta'ala outlines the ultimate abode of each of the two groups of people. Concerning the disbelievers, Allaah says,

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ وَالْمُشْرِكِينَ فِي نَارِ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا
أُولَئِكَ هُمْ شَرُّ الْبَرِيَّةِ

“Verily the disbelievers from the People of the Book and the idolaters shall abide forever in the fire of Jahannam. These are the worst of creation.” Besides the Jews, the Christians and the Mushrikeen, also included in the ambit of **“disbelievers”** are the atheists and those who do not follow any religion. The abode of all such people is Jahannam. Also included among the Kuffaar are those people who do not believe in any Nabi of Allaah (A.S) or who do not believe in Rasulullaah (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) as Allaah’s final messenger. Because Islaam is the only religion that Allaah accepts from a person, everyone who does not accept Islaam is regarded as a Kaafir.

Therefore, Allaah says in Surah Nisaa, **"O Mankind! Indeed the messenger has come to you with the truth from your Rabb; so believe, it will be better for you. If you disbelieve, then verily to Allaah belongs whatever is in the heavens and earth. Allaah is ever All Knowing, The Wise."** [Surah 4, verse 170]

Allaah Ta'ala says in verse 19 of Surah Aal Imraan (Surah 3), **"Definitely the only religion with Allaah is Islaam."** In verse 85 of the same Surah, Allaah says, **"Whosoever seeks a religion besides Islam, it shall never be accepted from him, and he will be, in the Hereafter, among the losers."** Thereafter, in the same Surah Aal Imraan [Surah 3, verse 91], Allaah Ta'ala says, **"Verily those who disbelieve and die as disbelievers, the earth full of gold shall never be accepted from any of them if they ever wish to offer it as ransom. Theirs shall be a painful punishment and they shall have no helpers."**

It should be understood well that every person who rejects Islaam is a Kaafir (a disbeliever). The Munafiqin (hypocrites) are also Kuffaar because their hearts reject Islaam. If any Kaafir dies as a Kaafir (without accepting Islaam), he will suffer eternally in Jahannam. Such people are referred to as **"the worst of creation"** because in this world they have rejected their Creator and Sustainer Allaah Ta'ala and His Deen, and they will have to suffer the worst punishment in the Hereafter. Therefore, together with having the worst beliefs and deeds, their plight in the Hereafter will also be the worst.

Allaah Ta'ala then discusses the condition of the Mu'mineen in the Aakhirah. Allaah says,

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ أُولَئِكَ هُمْ خَيْرُ الْبَرِّ
جَزَاءُ لَهُمْ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ جَنَّاتُ عَدْنٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا
رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ خَشِيَ رَبَّهُ

"Indeed those who believe and who carry out good deeds are certainly the best of creation. Their reward with their Rabb is eternal gardens where they shall abide forever and ever. Allaah is pleased with them and they are pleased with Him."

Allaah will grant these people so much in the Aakhirah that there will be nothing more for them to desire.

Hadhrat Abu Sa'eed Khudri (R.A) reports that the Prophet (sallallaahu-alayhi-wa-sallam) said, "Without doubt, Allaah shall call to the people of Jannah saying, '*O dwellers of Jannah!*' They will reply, '*O our Rabb, we are present and ready to carry out Your orders. All good is in Your control.*'" Allaah shall ask them, '*Are you happy?*' '*How can we not be,*' they will submit, '*when You have bestowed on us what You have not given to any of Your creation?*' Allaah will tell them, '*Should I not grant you something superior to all of this?*' They will exclaim, '*What can be superior to this?*' Allaah will say, '*I shall confer My pleasure on you and I will never be angry with you in the future.*'" [Bukhari Vol.2 Pg.969]

Allaah Ta'ala concludes the Surah by saying, "**This is for him who fears his Rabb.**" This verse makes it clear that Jannah and its bounties are reserved for those who fear Allaah and accept Him as their Rabb and Cherisher. They are aware of the fact that the Day of Qiyamah is imminent when Allaah will pass judgement on people and send them to either Jannah or Jahannam. Such people realise that they have to adhere to the tenets of Imaan and that they have to carry out good deeds to attain salvation in the Aakhirah.

