

and his son Ismael (AS). This is the first mosque that was built for the worship of Allah (SWT) and is full of blessings and guidance for all mankind till the Day of Judgment.

فِيهِ آيَاتٌ بَيِّنَاتٌ مِّمَّا فَرَغَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ وَمَنْ دَخَلَ كَانَ آمِنًا وَلَوْلَا عَلَى النَّاسِ حُجُّ الْبَيْتِ مِمَّنْ اسْتَطَاعَ إِلَيْهِ سَبِيلًا وَمَنْ كَفَرَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ عَلِيمٌ ⑩

(97) In it are manifest signs, the station of Abraham; whoever enters it attains security. Pilgrimage to this house is a duty to Allah for those who can afford the journey, but whoever disbelieves then Allah stands not in need of any of the worlds.

i.e. it has signs that Allah (SWT) has honored and has blessed, like the station of Ibrahim (AS) [the spot where Ibrahim stood]. He has also made this place a secure sanctuary; whosoever enters it remains safe from his enemies and attains peace. Even in the days of ignorance, there was peace and security in the Ka'bah and in its surroundings and no one dared to touch his enemy even if he was a murderer of his father. "Pilgrimage to this house is a duty to Allah for those who can afford the journey, but whoever disbelieves then Allah stands not in need of any of the worlds" Pilgrimage to the Ka'bah has been made obligatory on those believers who can afford the journey to carry out the command of Allah (SWT) till the Day of Resurrection. But whoever denies the necessity of performing the Pilgrimage becomes a disbeliever as is recorded by Abu Bakr Al Ismaili that Umar Bin Al-Khattab (RAA) said: "Whoever can afford the Pilgrimage but does not perform it, there is no difference in his case if he dies as a Jew or a Christian." [15]

قُلْ يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ لِمَ تَكْفُرُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَآيَاتِهِ شُونَ عَلَى مَا تَعْمَلُونَ ⑪

(98) Say: "O people of the Book! Why do you deny the revelations of Allah? Allah Himself is a witness to what you do."

Here the address is to the Jews and the Christians who had the knowledge from their scriptures that Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is the last Messenger and what he is sent with is the truth but still denied it.

قُلْ يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ لِمَ تَصُدُّونَ عَنِ سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ مَنْ لَكُمْ بَيِّنَاتٌ مِمَّا اللَّهُ يُعَاقِبُ عَمَّا تَعْمَلُونَ ⑫

(99) Say: "O people of the Book! Why do you obstruct the believers from the path of Allah (SWT), seeking to make it crooked, while you yourselves are witnesses? And Allah is not unaware of what you do."

Although they knew that Islam is the truth, yet they rejected it and used to plot against those who believed in it so as to create doubts about Islam and to lead them astray from the right path.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِن تَطِيعُوا أَفْرَاقَهُمُ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ يَرْجِسُوا عَمَلَكُمْ كُفْرًا ⑬

(100) O you who believe! If you obey those who were given the Book, they would (indeed) render you disbelievers after you have believed.

punishment even if they offer as ransom huge amounts of gold. They shall be sternly punished and none shall help them.

كُن تَدَّاءُوا إِلَهَكُمْ عَلَىٰ تَدَّاءُوا إِلَهُكُمْ وَمَا تَدَّاءُوا إِلَهُكُمْ إِلَّا مَا تَدَّاءُوا إِلَهُكُمْ ۖ قَدْ عَلِمَ إِلَهُكُمْ بِمَا تَدَّاءُوا إِلَهُكُمْ ۖ

(92) By no means shall you attain righteousness unless you spend of that which you love; and whatever of good you spend, Allah knows it well.

This subject has already been dealt with in ayah 177 of surah Al-Baqarah. This ayah states that a person cannot achieve the position of piety and righteousness until he spends in Allah's cause from that which he loves most. And whatever he spends, whether openly or secretly, Allah (SWT) knows it well.

كُلُّ الشَّيْءِ كَانَ حَلَالًا لِّبَنِي إِسْرَءِيلَ إِلَّا مَا حَرَّمَ رَبِّيَ آدَمُ عَلَىٰ نَفْسِهِ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ تُنَزَّلَ التَّوْرَةُ قُلْ فَأْتُوا بِالتَّوْرَةِ فَاتْلُوهَا ۚ إِنَّكُمْ مُدْرِكُونَ ۚ

(93) All food was lawful to the children of Israel except what Israel made unlawful for itself before the Torah was revealed. Say, "Bring the Torah and recite it if you are truthful."

Prophet Ya'qub (AS) did not eat certain things because he did not like them. But the Children of Israel thought that those things were unlawful and they also started to abstain from them. One of the things that Ya'qub (AS) made unlawful to himself before the revelation of Torah was the meat of camel, therefore, the Jews objected to the Holy Prophet (SAW) for making camel meat lawful when it had been made unlawful in the time of the previous Prophets. But Allah (SWT) commanded the Prophet (SAW) to ask the Jews to provide evidence from their own scripture, the Torah, if what they claimed was true.

فَمَنْ أَفْتَرَىٰ عَلَى اللَّهِ الْكَذِبَ عَرُفَ تَعْبُودِكَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ ۚ

(94) Then after this whoever invents a lie against Allah, it is indeed they who are the wrong-doers.

i.e. whosoever forges a lie and distorts the scriptures is indeed a great transgressor.

قُلْ صَدَقَ اللَّهُ فَاتَّبِعُوا مِلَّةَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ حَنِيفًا وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ ۚ

(95) Say, "Allah has spoken the truth, so follow the religion of Abraham, the upright, and he was not of the Mushrikeen (idolaters)."

i.e. Allah (SWT) has made known the truth in the Qur'an through Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and has ordered to follow Ibrahim (AS), who was an upright man and did not associate partners with Allah.

إِنَّ أَوَّلَ بَيْتٍ وُضِعَ لِلنَّاسِ لَلَّذِي بِبَكَّةَ مُبَارَكًا وَهُدًى لِلْعَالَمِينَ ۚ

(96) Verily, the first House (of worship) appointed for mankind was that at Bakkah full of blessing and a guidance for all the worlds.

Bakkah and Makkah are one and the same and the House referred to in this ayah is the Ka'bah, a structure built by Prophet Ibrahim (AS)

This *ayah* refers to the Jews and the Christians who denied Prophet Muhammad [SAW]. They testified to the fact that they were foretold about the coming of Prophet Muhammad [SAW] in their scriptures but they still rejected him after all the proofs were established and truth became clear to them. So Allah [SWT] says: "But Allah does not guide the wrongdoers" i.e. those who do not believe in Prophet Muhammad [SAW] and follow his teachings will not be guided in this world nor will they ever attain salvation in the Hereafter.

لَوْلَيْكَ جَزَاءُؤُهُمْ أَنْ عَذِّبَهُمُ اللَّهُ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ الْجَمِيعِينَ ۖ

(87) The reward of such people is that upon them is the curse of Allah, the angels and all mankind.

i.e. for those who reject Allah's Messengers, the reward will be the curse of Allah [SWT], the angles, and all men.

لَا يَخَفُ فِيهَا النَّارُ وَلَا يُخَفَّفُ عَنْهُمْ الْعَذَابُ وَلَا هُمْ يُنْقِضُونَ ۚ

(88) They will abide therein; neither will their punishment be lightened nor will they be given respite.

i.e. they will remain under the curse forever and their torment will not be lessened at all and they shall abide there forever.

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ تَابُوا مِنْ بَعْدِ ذَلِكَ وَأَصْلَحُوا ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ ۝

(89) Except for those that repent after that and do righteous deeds. Verily, Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

If a person sincerely repents and mends his ways, Allah [SWT] opens the doors of forgiveness and mercy for him, for He is Forgiving and Merciful.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بَعْدَ إِيمَانِهِمْ ثُمَّ اخْتَلَوْا فَكُلُوا الْإِنْفِيلَ تَوْبَتُهُمْ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ ۝

(90) Verily, those who disbelieve after their belief and then went on increasing in their disbelief, their repentance will never be accepted. And they are those who are astray.

Allah [SWT] states that He will not accept the repentance of those who revert to disbelief after having believed and then their disbelief kept on increasing till death approached them. They are the ones who have gone astray.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَأَوْمَنُوا هُمْ أَكْثَرُ قُلُوبًا فَكُلَّهَا يَكْتُمُونَ مِنْ أَجْلِ عَذَابِ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ يُؤْتُونَ يَدَانَهُمْ لَا يَتَذَكَّرْنَ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْسِدُونَ ۝

(91) Verily, those who disbelieved and die while they were disbelievers, the earth full of gold will not be accepted from anyone of them if they offered it as a ransom. For them is a painful torment, and they will have no helpers."

i.e. those who die while they are disbelievers, their abode will be Hellfire and they will not be given respite from the dreadful

فَمَنْ تَوَلَّى بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْسِدُونَ ﴿٨٢﴾

(82) Then whosoever turns back after this, he will become the transgressor.

i.e. whoever turns back from the covenant and rebels and rejects the Messenger (SAW) will surely be regarded as a transgressor.

أَفَعَدَّ دِينِي اللَّهُ يَتَّبِعُونَ يَوْمَ ذَٰلِكَ أَسْلَمَ مَنْ فِي السَّمٰوٰتِ وَالْأَرْضِ طَوْعًا وَكَرْهًا وَإِلَيْهِ يُرْجَعُونَ ﴿٨٣﴾

(83) Do they seek for other than the Deen of Allah, while all creatures in the heavens and on earth have submitted to Him willingly or unwillingly? And to Him shall they all be brought back.

Islam is the only Deen approved by Allah (SWT). All the creatures submit to Him alone. The faithful believers submit to His will consciously but those who do not consciously submit to Him, have to submit to the laws of nature enforced by Him which govern the whole universe, thus submitting to His will by compulsion. "And to Him shall they all be brought back" i.e. to Him they shall all return on the Day of Resurrection.

قُلْ آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَمَا أُنزِلَ عَلَيْنَا وَمَا أُنزِلَ عَلَىٰ إِبْرٰهٖمَ وَإِسْمٰعٖلَ وَإِسْحٰقَ وَيٰحٰقُوبَ وَالْأَسْبَاطِ وَمَا أَتٰنَا مِن نَّبٖىٍّ وَعِيسَىٰ وَالنَّبٖيُّونَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ لَا نَعْبُدُهُمْ إِلَّا لَنَعْبُدَ رَبَّنَا الَّذِي هُوَ أَحَدٌ مِّنْهُمْ وَنَحْنُ إِلَيْهِ مُسْلِمُونَ ﴿٨٤﴾

(84) Say: "We believe in Allah and in what has been revealed to us and what was revealed to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob and his progeny and what was given to Moses, Jesus and the Prophets from their Lord; we make no distinction between one and another among them and to Him we have submitted."

Here as already mentioned in ayah 136 of surah Al-Baqarah, Allah (SWT) directs the believers to say that they believe in what was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (SAW) i.e. the Qw'an, and also the previous Prophets of Allah (SWT) and not to make any distinction between them by following some and rejecting the others and to submit themselves to His will.

وَمَنْ يَتَّبِعْ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ سَلَامٌ دِينًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ وَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنَ الْخٰسِرٖنَ ﴿٨٥﴾

(85) And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam, it will not be accepted of him and in the Hereafter he will be one of the losers.

i.e. no religion is acceptable with Allah (SWT) except Islam i.e. belief in Allah (SWT) and accepting Prophet Muhammad (SAW) as His last Messenger and following his teachings. Whosoever refuses to do so will be amongst the losers.

كَيْفَ يَهْدِي اللَّهُ قَوْمًا كَفَرُوا بَعَثْنَا فِيهِمُ رُسُلًا يَظْهَرُونَ ﴿٨٦﴾

(86) How shall Allah guide those who reject faith after they accepted it and bore witness that the Messenger was true and after clear signs came to them. But Allah does not guide the wrongdoers.

Although this *ayah* specifically refers to the Christians but it also refutes the beliefs of those who attribute wrong things to the Prophets, angels or religious scholars and make them objects of worship. This *ayah* states that no Prophet of Allah (SWT) ever advised people to worship him instead of Allah (SWT) as is the belief of the Christians who worship Prophet 'Isa (AS) as Allah's son. Prophet 'Isa (AS) never taught them to worship him or consider him as Allah's son. In fact every Prophet sent by Allah (SWT) invited people to worship Allah (SWT) alone and devote themselves to His obedience and this is what Allah (SWT) has revealed in all the Books sent to them for their guidance.

وَلَا يَأْمُرُكُمْ أَنْ تَتَّخِذُوا الْمَلَائِكَةَ وَالنَّبِيِّينَ أَرْبَابًا أَيَأْمُرُكُمْ بِالْكُفْرِ بَعْدَ إِذْ أَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ ﴿٨٠﴾

(80) Nor would he order you to take angels and prophets for Lords. Would he enjoin you to disbelieve after you have become believers?

i.e. the Prophets have always called people to worship Allah (SWT) alone and surely not to worship his self or the angels. "Would he enjoin you to disbelieve after you have become believers" i.e. worshipping anything or any person other than Allah (SWT) constitutes disbelief, so they never call people to become disbelievers; instead, they call them to worship Allah (SWT) alone without any partners and to surrender themselves to Him.

وَإِذْ أَخَذَ اللَّهُ مِيثَاقَ النَّبِيِّينَ لَمَا آتَيْنَاكُمْ مِنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيْكُمْ أَنْ تَقُولُوا سَمِعْنَا وَأَطَعْنَا وَأَخَذَتْهُمُ الرَّسُولُ وَهُمْ يَفْهَمُونَ ﴿٨١﴾

(81) And remember when Allah took the covenant of the Prophets saying: "Take whatever I gave you from the Book and Wisdom, and afterwards there will come to you a Messenger confirming what is with you; you must, then, believe in him and help him." Allah (SWT) said: "Do you agree and take this My Covenant as binding on you" They said: "We agree." He said: "Then bear witness and I am with you among the witnesses."

As mentioned earlier in surah *Al-Baqarah*, Allah (SWT) took a covenant from all the souls before they were sent into the physical world. At the same time, Allah (SWT) took a covenant from all the Prophets that after He has given them the Book and Wisdom, there will come a Last Messenger (SAW) and they will have to believe in him and support him. This *ayah* actually refers to the Jews and the Christians who did not believe in Prophet Muhammad (SAW). Therefore, Allah (SWT) reminds them of that covenant which He also took from their Prophets, Musa (AS) and 'Isa (AS) that even if Muhammad (SAW) were sent in their time, they would have to believe in him and support him. "Allah (SWT) said: "Do you agree and take this My Covenant as binding on you" They said: "We agree." He said: "Then bear witness and I am with you among the witnesses." i.e. all the prophets accepted the covenant and promised and testified that their followers will carry out the terms of the covenant.

But Allah (SWT) says: "And they ascribe a lie to Allah (SWT) while they know it" i.e. they distorted their Books and deliberately invented these lies against Allah (SWT).

بَلَىٰ مَنْ أَوْفَىٰ بِعَهْدِهِ جِئْنَا فَرَأَىٰ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَّقِينَ ۝

(76) But those who fulfill their covenant and fear Allah then verily, Allah loves the pious.

The fulfillment of a covenant is the quality of a pious person who fears Allah (SWT) and these are the people who are most beloved to Him.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَشْتَرُونَ بِعَهْدِ اللَّهِ وَأَيْمَانِهِمْ ثَمَنًا قَلِيلًا أُولَٰئِكَ لَا خَلَاقَ لَهُمْ فِي الْآخِرَةِ قَوْلًا يَكْتُمُهُ اللَّهُ لَهُمْ لِيَنْظُرُوا
إِلَهُهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَلَا يُكَلِّمُهُمْ وَالْهَمُّ عَذَابُ أَلِيمٌ ۝

(77) Verily those who sell the covenant, of Allah and their own oaths for a paltry price, they shall have no share in the Hereafter. Allah will neither speak to them nor look at them on the Day of Resurrection, nor will He purify them and they shall have a painful torment.

Those who break their covenant and barter it for small and ephemeral benefits in this world will have no share in the rewards to be given on the Day of Judgment nor will Allah (SWT) bestow His mercy on them and in fact they will be dealt in a severe manner and a woeful punishment awaits them which will torment them for ever.

وَأَنَّ مِنْهُمْ لَفِرِيقًا يُقَالُونَ الْيَهُودُ بِالْكِتَابِ بِمَعْشِرَةِ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَمَا هُمْ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَيَقُولُونَ هُوَ مِنْ عِندِ
اللَّهِ وَمَا هُوَ مِنْ عِندِ اللَّهِ وَيَقُولُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ الْكَذِبُ وَهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ ۝

(78) And there are some among them who distort the Book with their tongues, so that you may think it is a part of the Book but it is no part of the Book and they say "This is from Allah" but it is not from Allah (SWT); and they tell a lie against Allah while they know it.

Allah (SWT) describes the characteristics of the Jews who have distorted their Books and changed their meanings in order to mislead people from the truth. They make the simple-minded people believe that this is from Allah (SWT), but in fact these are their own self-invented beliefs which are nothing but lies. Thus they knowingly ascribe a falsehood to Allah (SWT).

مَا كَانَ لِيُشْفِيَ أَنْ يَتَّخِذَ اللَّهُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحُكْمَ وَالنَّبِيَّةَ ثُمَّ يَقُولَ لِلنَّاسِ كُونُوا عِبَادًا لِّي مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ وَلَكِن
كُونُوا لِي عِبَادًا مِمَّا كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ الْكِتَابَ وَمِمَّا تُدْرُسُونَ ۝

(79) It is not (possible) that a man to whom Allah has given the Book and Wisdom and Prophet hood should say to people: "Be my worshippers rather than Allah's" on the contrary (he would say) "Be devoted servants of your Lord, because you are teaching the Book and you are studying it."

- (73) And believe in none except those that follow your religion". Say: "True guidance is the guidance of Allah (SWT) (Do not believe) that any one will get the like of that you have received, or they will ever dispute with you in your Lord's presence." Say: "All bounties are in the hand of Allah. He grants them to whom He pleases and Allah is All-Embracing, All-Knowing."

The Jews said to those who were sent to Madinah to execute their wicked plan and not expose their knowledge of Torah regarding the advent of the last Prophet and other prophesies to the Muslims lest they might use it as evidence against them. But Allah (SWT) states that those who receive guidance receive it from Him and none is able to mislead them. Therefore, such tricks of the Jews would not avail them anything and He guides whom He wills to the right faith. "And Allah (SWT) is All-Embracing, All-Knowing" i.e. Allah (SWT) knows who deserves honor and guidance.

يَخْتَارُ بِرَحْمَتِهِ مَن يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ ذُو الْفَضْلِ الْعَظِيمِ ۝

- (74) He chooses for His mercy whom He pleases, Allah is the Owner of great bounty.

He is merciful to whom He wills, His grace is infinite.

وَمِنَ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ مَن آتَيْنَاهُم مَّا يَشَاءُونَ وَإِن تَأْمُرُهُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ لَّا يُعِيتُوا إِلَيْكَ إِلَّا أَعْيُنُهُمْ ۚ وَالْيَدِ قَابِضَةٌ بِرَحْمَتِهِ قَالُوا أَلَيْسَ عَلَيْنَا فِي الْأُمُورِ حَقٌّ ۚ قَالُوا أَتُؤْتُونَ عَلَى الْكُفْرِ حَقًّا وَلِللَّهِ الْكَفْرُ وَلَهُ يَعْلَمُونَ ۝

- (75) Among the People of the Book there are some who, if you trust them with a heap of gold, will readily return it back and there are others who, if trusted with a single silver coin will not repay it back unless you constantly stand demanding. Because they say, "We are not going to be called to account with regard to the non-Jewish Arabs (Gentiles)." And they ascribe a lie to Allah while they know it.

In this ayah, Allah (SWT) acknowledges the honesty and integrity of some Jews and Christians who were sincere in their faith and obedient to Allah (SWT) and trustworthy in their worldly dealings. On the other hand, most of them were deceitful people who, whenever an opportunity arose, would try to usurp the wealth and properties of others unlawfully. "Because they say, 'We are not going to be called to account with regard to the non-Jewish Arabs (Gentiles).'" i.e. the Jews differentiate between the Israelites and non-Israelites. They believe that it is far to be unjust in their dealings with non-Israelites and usurp their properties by whatever means. But they do not allow the same towards a fellow Israelite. This is because they only consider themselves as humans and believe that all gentiles [11] are animals. As it is said in Talmud [12]: "All gentile children are animals" [13] and at another place it is said, "When a Jew murders a gentile, there will be no death penalty. What a Jew steals from a gentile he may keep" [14].

This refers to the Jews who wished to misguide the believers and take them away from Islam but Allah (SWT) says that this behavior will backfire upon them and they will misguide none but themselves due to their arrogance and envy, but they do not realize it.

يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ لِمَ تَكْفُرُونَ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ الَّتِي بَيَّنَّا وَآلَمْنَاكُمْ تَكْفُرُونَ ۖ

(70) O People of the Book! Why do you deny the revelations of Allah, while you bear witness?

i.e. why do you deny Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and the *ayaat* revealed to him when you yourself know that it is the truth and you bear witness to the fact that you were foretold about the advent of this Prophet in your scriptures.

يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ لِمَ تَلْبِسُونَ الْحَقَّ بِالْبَاطِلِ وَتَكْتُمُونَ الْحَقَّ وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ۖ

(71) O People of the Book! Why do you confound the truth with falsehood and conceal the truth while you know.

i.e. you know that what Prophet Muhammad (SAW) has brought is the truth but you hide it in your Books and conceal the truth deliberately.

وَقَالَتْ طَائِفَةٌ مِّنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ آمَنُوا بِالَّذِينَ أُولُوا عَلَى الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَهُمْ أَوْفَءُ النَّفْسِ الْكَافِرَةِ وَالْكَافِرِينَ أَكْفَرُ مَا أَكْفَرُوا فَأَعْلَاهُ يَوْمَ يُجْعَلُونَ

(72) Some of the People of the Book say to one another. "Believe in what is revealed to the believers in the morning and deny it in the evening; so that they may turn back

This was one of the tricks of the Jews to make a show of belief for a short span of time and then immediately renounce their belief so as to deceive the simple-minded Muslims who were weak in their religious conviction and take them back to disbelief. For this purpose, they sent people to *Madinah*, who would openly accept Islam in the day and then turn back to their religion by nightfall so as to create doubts in peoples' hearts about Islam and the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). This is the reason for which Islam has ordained the punishment for apostasy. In an Islamic state, a person who abandons Islam is firstly asked to repent but if he does not repent and does not return to the true religion, then he should be killed as an apostate and a disbeliever, because of the command of the Prophet (SAW): "The blood of a Muslim, who confesses that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah and that I am His Apostle, cannot be shed except in three cases: In Qisas for murder, a married person who commits illegal sexual intercourse and the one who reverts from Islam (apostate) and leaves the Muslims." [10]

وَلَا تُؤْمِنُوا إِلَّا بِهِ نَبِيٍّ دِيتَكُمْ قُلْ إِنَّ إِلَهِي هُنَالَيْ هُنَالَيْ أَن يُؤْتِي أَحَدًا بِشَيْءٍ مَّا أُوْتِيَهُمْ أَوْ يُحَاجُّوهُ كَمَا جَدَّيْ
رَبِّكُمْ قُلْ إِنَّ الْفَضْلَ بِيَدِ اللَّهِ يُؤْتِيهِ مَن يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ ۖ

legislated by Allah (SWT). "Then if they turn away, say: "Bear witness that we are Muslims." i.e. If they [Jews and Christians] do not respond to this call, then let them know that unlike them you have submitted yourselves to Allah (SWT).

يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ لِمَ تَحْجُجُونَ فِي إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَمَا كُنَّا بِالْقَوْلِ إِلَّا رَحِمْهُمْ وَلَا تَعْلَمُونَ ۝

(65) O people of the Book! Why do you argue with us about Abraham, while the Torah and the Injeel were not revealed till after him? Have you then no sense.

i.e. why do the Jews and the Christians dispute with the Muslims about Prophet Ibrahim (AS), claiming that he was one of them, although they know that the Torah given to Musa (AS) and the Injeel given to Isa (AS) were revealed long after him and thus it becomes immaterial to claim whether Ibrahim (AS) was a Jew or a Christian.

مَا كُنْتُمْ لَهُ لَآءٍ حَاجِحِينَ ۚ لَكُمْ بِهِ عِلْمٌ فَلِمَ تُحَاجُّوْنَ فِيهِ ۚ لَيْسَ لَكُم بِهِ عِلْمٌ ۚ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ وَأَنْتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ ۝

(66) So far you have been disputing about which you had some knowledge! But why are you arguing about that of which you have no knowledge, Allah knows and you do not know.

The Jews and the Christians do not have any knowledge about the religion of Ibrahim (AS) and yet they argue about it, whereas Allah (SWT) knows that he was a Muslim i.e. one who surrendered wholly to Allah (SWT).

مَا كَانَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ يَهُودِيًّا وَلَا نَصْرَانِيًّا وَلَكِنْ كَانَ حَنِيفًا مُّسْلِمًا وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ ۝

(67) Abraham was neither a Jew nor a Christian but he was a Muslim, true in faith. And he was not one of those who associate partners with Allah.

This is the answer to the arguments of the Jews and the Christians who claimed Prophet Ibrahim (AS) to be one of them. Allah (SWT) explicates that he (AS) was neither a Jew nor a Christian but a pure, Hanif [9] Muslim i.e. one wholly devoted and obedient to Allah (SWT).

إِنَّ أَوْلَى النَّاسِ بِإِبْرَاهِيمَ لَلَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوهُ وَهَذَا النَّبِيُّ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَاللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ ۝

(68) Verily, those of mankind who have the best claim to Abraham are those who followed him and this Prophet and those who have believed. And Allah (SWT) is the Protector and Helper of the believers.

Those who can best be described as closest to Ibrahim (AS) are the ones who follow him and Prophet Muhammad (SAW). "And Allah (SWT) is the Protector and Helper of the believers" i.e. Allah (SWT) is the guardian of those who believe in all His Messengers and are faithful.

وَذَلِكَ ظَلَمَ الْبَغِيَّةِ ۚ أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الْمَسْئَلَةُ وَمَا يُغْنِي عَنْكُمْ ۚ

(69) Some of the People of the Book want to lead you astray, but they shall not lead astray anyone except themselves, but they perceive not.

MESSAGE OF THE QUR'AN

Translation and Brief Elucidation

By

Dr. Israr Ahmad

Aal-e-Imran

(Ayaat 64-101)

قُلْ يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ تَعَالَوْا إِلَى كَلِمَةٍ سَوَاءٍ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ أَلَّا نَعْبُدَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ وَلَا نُشْرِكَ بِهِ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَتَّخِذَ بَعْضُنَا
بَعْضًا أَرْبَابًا مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ فَإِنْ تَوَلَّوْا فَقُولُوا اشْهَدُوا بِأَنَّا مُسْلِمُونَ ﴿٦٤﴾

(64) Say: "O people of the Book! Come to equitable agreement among us that we shall worship none but Allah and that we shall not associate any partners with Him and that we shall not take from among ourselves any lords beside Allah". Then, if they turn away, say: "Bear witness that we are Muslims."

Allah (SWT) commands Muhammad (SAW) to call the People of the Book to come to a common creed that we will worship Allah (SWT) alone and associate no partners with Him. And "that we shall not take from among ourselves any lords beside Allah". The Jews and the Christians used to take their rabbis and priests as their Lords as Allah (SWT) says: "They (Jews and Christians) have taken their rabbis and priests to be their Lords beside Allah ... "[7] Adi bin Hahim (RAA) who reverted to Islam from Christianity after the call of the Messenger (SAW) commented upon this *ayah* and said to the Prophet (SAW) that they (i.e. Jews and Christians) did not worship them as described in this *ayah*. The Prophet (SAW) replied: "Yes they did. They (rabbis and priests) prohibited the allowed for them (Jews and Christians) and allowed the prohibited, and the people obeyed them. This is how they worshipped them" [8]. Similarly Saint Paul abrogated the law of Musa (AS) and now the Pope has the right to declare what is wrong and what is right. Therefore Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is commanded to call them to come to the common belief which is confirmed by the teachings of their own scriptures that there is none worthy of worship except Allah (SWT), so do not worship other Lords besides Him. Similarly, today in the so-called 'modern democratic society' people refer to other authorities as their judge and legislators besides Allah (SWT). They believe in secular democracy i.e. the principle of the sovereignty of the people and their right to choose their leaders and legislate whatever law they want even if it opposes the Divine laws

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