

In The Name of Allaah, The Most Merciful, The Bestower of Mercy.

Negatives

Allaah [The Exalted] said:

أَفَتَطْمَعُونَ أَنْ يُؤْمِنُوا لَكُمْ وَقَدْ كَانَ فَرِيقٌ مِّنْهُمْ يَسْمَعُونَ كَلِمَ اللَّهِ ثُمَّ يُحَرِّفُونَهُ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا عَقَلُوهُ وَهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ

"Do you (faithful believers) hope that they will believe in your religion inspite of the fact that a party of them (Jewish rabbis) used to hear the Word of Allah [the Taurat (Torah)], then they used to change it whilst they know?"

Meaning: **They knew that they have distorted it or they knew the punishment for distorting it.** (1)

وَإِذَا لَفُؤُوا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا قَالُوا ءَامَنَّا وَإِذَا خَلَا بِغَضِهمْ إِلَىٰ بَعْضِهمْ قَالُوا أَتُحَدِّثُونَهُم بِمَا فَتَحَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكُمْ لِيُحَاجُّوكُمْ بِهِ عِنْدَ رَبِّكُمْ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ

"And when they meet those who believe (Muslims), they say, "We believe", but when they meet one another in private, they say, "Shall you tell them (Muslims) what Allah has revealed to you (about the description and the qualities of Prophet Muhammad Peace be upon him , that which are written in the Torah), that they (Muslims) may argue with you about it before your Lord?" Have you then no understanding? Know they not that Allah knows what they conceal and what they reveal?"

وَمِنْهُمْ أُمِّيُونَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ الْكِتَابَ إِلَّا أَمَانِيٍّ وَإِنْ هُمْ إِلَّا يَظُنُّونَ

"And there are among them are unlettered people, who know not the Book, but they trust upon false desires and they but guess".

Meaning: **Ibn Abbaas [may Allaah be pleased with him and his father] said, "They do not want except what they utter out of lying" or "They do not know the understanding derived from the scripture, rather they only know what they hear being recited to them".** (2)

[هَمْ إِلَّا يَظُنُّونَ - they but guess]

Meaning: **They are not upon certainty, so they follow their religious leaders**

whether they are lying or telling the truth. (3)

فَوَيْلٌ لِلَّذِينَ يَكْتُبُونَ الْكِتَابَ بِأَيْدِيهِمْ ثُمَّ يَقُولُونَ هَذَا مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ لِيَشْتَرُوا بِهِ ثَمَنًا قَلِيلًا فَوَيْلٌ لَهُمْ مِمَّا كَتَبَتْ
أَيْدِيهِمْ وَوَيْلٌ لَهُمْ مِمَّا يَكْسِبُونَ

"Then woe to those who write the Book with their own hands and then say, "This is from Allah," to purchase with it a little price! Woe to them for what their hands have written and woe to them for that they earn thereby".

[فَوَيْلٌ - Then woe]:

Al-Qaadhi Iyaad [may Allaah have mercy upon him] stated that the word "Waylun- Woe" has some of the following meanings: **it is used whilst referring to one who has fallen into destruction. It is used whilst referring to one who deserves destruction. It is used to refer to destruction itself. It is used to refer to the difficulty found in punishment. It is used to refer to grief. It is used to refer to a valley in the hell fire.** (4)

Positives

لَيْسُوا سَوَاءً مِّنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ أُمَّةٌ قَائِمَةٌ يَتْلُونَ ءَايَاتِ اللَّهِ ءَانَاءَ اللَّيْلِ وَهُمْ يَسْجُدُونَ
يُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَيَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَيُسْرِعُونَ فِي الْخَيْرَاتِ وَأُولَٰئِكَ مِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ

"Not all of them are alike; a party of the people of the Scripture stand for the right, they recite the Verses of Allah during the hours of the night, prostrating themselves in prayer. They believe in Allah and the Last Day; they enjoin Al-Ma'ruf (Islamic Monotheism, and following Prophet Muhammad) and forbid Al-Munkar (polytheism, disbelief and opposing Prophet Muhammad); and they hasten in (all) good works; and they are among the righteous".

Ibn Abbaas [may Allaah be pleased with him and his father] said, "When Abdullah Bin Sallaam - who was from a group amongst the Jews - accepted Islaam, their rabbis said, 'None believes in Muhammad except the evil amongst us', so Allaah revealed this verse:

[لَيْسُوا سَوَاءً مِّنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ أُمَّةٌ قَائِمَةٌ يَتْلُونَ ءَايَاتِ اللَّهِ ءَانَاءَ اللَّيْلِ وَهُمْ يَسْجُدُونَ] - Not all of them are alike; a party of the people of the Scripture stand for the right, they recite the Verses of Allah during the hours of the night, prostrating themselves in prayer]. (5)

[Refs 1, 2 & 3: An Excerpt from Zaadul Maseer Fee Ilmit Tafseer By Imaam Ibnul Jawzi (may allaah have mercy upon him). Surah Al-Baqarah Verses 74-79]

[Ref 4: Quoted by Shaikh Abdullaah Al-Bukhaari (may Allaah preserve him) in Sharh Umdatul Ahkaam: lesson 2]

[Ref 5: An Excerpt from Zaadul Maseer Fee Ilmit Tafseer By Imaam Ibnul Jawzi (may allaah have mercy upon him). Surah Aal Imraan Verses 113-114]