

- 2:75. Do you [O believers] then hope that they will respond to your call, when a party among them used to hear the word of Allah, and they distorted it knowingly after having understood it?
- 2:76. When they meet the believers, they say: We [too] believe: But when they meet one another in private, they say: Why are you telling them what Allah has disclosed to you [of the description of the Prophet in the Torah], that they may use it in argument against you before your Lord? Have you no sense?
- 2:77. Do they not realise that Allah knows what they conceal and what they disclose?
- 2:78. And there are among them unlettered people, who have no knowledge of the Book, except wishful thinking, and they have nothing but [mere] speculation.
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These verses put an end to the believers' hopes that the People of the Book would believe. In other words, do not raise your hopes about them becoming believers, because the way they are does not give rise to any such hope. They used to distort the words of Allah after having learned and understood them; they interpreted them in a way different than what Allah intended, in order to give people the impression that it came from Allah, when it did not come from Allah. If this is how they are with regard to their own Book, which they regard as a source of great pride and honour, and as the basis of their religion, yet they took it as a means to turn people away from the path of Allah, then how can it be hoped that they would believe and respond to your call? That is highly unlikely.

Then Allah describes the condition of the hypocrites among the People of the Book:

﴿When they meet the believers, they say: We [too] believe﴾. They pretended to be believers and they paid lip service to a faith that was not in their hearts