

﴿٨١﴾ وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ ﴿٨٢﴾ (سورة البقرة: ٨٠-٨٢)

- 2:80. And they say: The fire will only touch us for a few days. Say: Have you received a covenant from Allah, for Allah will never break His covenant? Or are you saying about Allah things of which you have no real knowledge?
- 2:81. Nay, those who do evil, and are encompassed by their sin will be the inhabitants of the fire; they will abide therein forever.
- 2:82. But those who believe and do righteous deeds will be the inhabitants of paradise; they will abide therein forever.

Allah mentions their abhorrent actions, then states that despite that they praise themselves and are certain that they will be saved from the punishment of Allah and will be granted His reward, and that the fire will only touch them for a few days, which are so few that they may be counted on the fingers. Thus they combined evil-doing with the feeling that they would be safe from the consequences thereof.

Because this was no more than a mere claim, Allah (ﷻ) refuted them by saying:

«Say» to them, O Messenger: «Have you received a covenant from Allah» whereby you have pledged to believe in Him and in His Messengers, and to obey Him? This is the covenant that would lead to salvation, a covenant that cannot be changed or altered.

«Or are you saying about Allah things of which you have no real knowledge?». Here Allah (ﷻ) tells them that the truth of their claim is connected to one of these two matters, and there is no third option: either they have a covenant from Allah, in which case their claim is true, or they are saying something unfounded about Allah, in which case their claim is false. This exposes them to greater disgrace and a more severe punishment. It is known from their situation that they have no covenant from Allah, because they rejected many of the