

Prophets, to the extent that they killed a number of them. Because of their refusal to obey Allah and their breaking of covenants, there is only one possibility, which is that they are fabricators and liars who say about Allah what they do not know, and speaking of Allah without knowledge is one of the gravest and most abhorrent of forbidden actions.

Then Allah (ﷻ) outlines a general ruling that is applicable to all, including the Children of Israel and others. This is the ruling and there is no other; there is no room for their wishful thinking and their claims as to who will be doomed and who will be saved. Allah says: ﴿Nay﴾, the matter is not as you say, for your claim is unfounded. Rather ﴿those who do evil﴾. This may include *shirk* (association of others with Allah) and lesser sins, but what is meant here is shirk, based on the fact that Allah then says ﴿and are encompassed by their sin﴾. What is meant is that it encompasses the one who does it, leaving no way out. This is only applicable in the case of shirk, because the one who believes cannot be encompassed by his sin. ﴿will be the inhabitants of the fire; they will abide therein forever﴾. The Kharijites¹⁰ quote this verse as evidence that anyone who commits sin becomes a disbeliever. But this is proof against them, as you may see, because it clearly refers to shirk. This is the case with every follower of falsehood who quotes a verse or *ṣaḥeeḥ* hadith to support his false notion; what he quotes as evidence will inevitably contain evidence against him.

﴿But those who believe﴾ in Allah, His angels, His Books, His Messengers and the Last Day

﴿and do righteous deeds﴾ – deeds cannot be righteous unless they meet two conditions: they should be done sincerely for the sake of Allah and in accordance with the Sunnah of His Messenger (ﷺ).

¹⁰ Kharijite: The Kharijites are an extremist group who were former members of ‘Ali’s army who rebelled against ‘Ali (ﷺ) after he accepted arbitration. They held extreme views that led them to regard the majority of Muslims as disbelievers.