

- 2:118. Those who have no knowledge say: If only Allah would speak to us or some sign would come to us. The people who came before them said something similar; their hearts are all much the same. We have made the signs clear to those who have certain faith.
- 2:119. Verily We have sent you with the truth as a bearer of glad tidings and a warner, but you will not be asked about the inhabitants of the blazing fire.

That is, the ignorant among the People of the Book and others say: Why does Allah not speak to us as He spoke to the Messengers? ﴿or some sign would come to us﴾ referring to signs that they suggest or demand on the basis of their corrupt thinking and worthless ideas, by means of which they showed audacity towards the Creator and arrogance towards His Messengers. This is like when they said:

﴿...We will never believe in you until we see Allah with our own eyes...﴾ (*al-Baqarah* 2: 55)

﴿The People of the Book ask you to bring down for them a book from heaven. Indeed, they asked Moosâ for something even greater than that...﴾ (*an-Nisâ* 4: 153)

﴿...Why has an angel not been sent down to him, to be a warner with him? Or why is not some treasure thrown down to him, or why does he not have a garden from which to eat?...﴾ (*al-Furqân* 25: 7-8)

﴿They say: We will never believe in you until you cause a spring to gush forth from the earth for us.﴾ (*al-Isrâ* 17: 90)

This is how they were with their Messengers: they would ask for signs by way of causing annoyance and out of stubbornness, not by way of seeking signs so that they might be guided. Their aim was not to clarify the truth, because the Messengers had already brought such signs that lead people to believe. Hence Allah (ﷻ) says: ﴿We have made the signs clear to those who have certain faith﴾. Everyone