

judge between people and establish proof against them. According to another scholarly opinion, they were united in disbelief, misguidance and wretchedness, with no light or faith amongst them. Then Allah (ﷻ) had mercy on them and sent the Messengers to them, ﴿with glad tidings﴾ that the one who obeyed Allah would see the results of his obedience, such as provision, physical and spiritual strength, a good life and, most important of all, attaining the pleasure of Allah and paradise.

﴿and warnings﴾ that the one who disobeyed Allah would see the results of his sin, such as being deprived of provision, weakness, humiliation, a hard life and, worst of all, the wrath of Allah and hell. ﴿and with them He sent the scripture in truth﴾, containing true stories and just commands. Everything that the scripture contains is truth that decides between two who disagree concerning major and minor issues of religion. This is what should be done in the event of differences and disputes: the dispute should be referred to Allah and to His Messenger. Were it not that the answer for the issue is to be found in His Book and the Sunnah of His Messenger (ﷺ), He would not have commanded us to refer to them.

Having mentioned the great blessing of sending down the scriptures to the People of the Book, which dictated that they should have been united in following them, Allah (ﷻ) then tells us that they transgressed against one another, and many disputes and conflicts arose among them; they differed concerning the scripture when they should have been the first of the people to unite on the basis of the scripture. That happened after they had learned and knew for certain the clear signs and definitive proof. Thus they went far astray.

﴿So Allah by His grace guided the believers﴾ of this Ummah ﴿to the truth concerning that wherein they differed﴾. With regard to everything concerning which the People of the Book disagreed and went astray from the correct view, Allah guided this Ummah to the truth concerning it, and ﴿by His grace﴾ and His mercy He made it easy for them.