

this religion, because there is no benefit in doing so; the faith of one who is forced to believe is not valid. However, this verse does not indicate that we should give up fighting the disbelievers who are in a state of war with Islam; rather it indicates that the beautiful nature of this religion would make any fair-minded person feel inclined towards it. As for the issue of fighting or not fighting, that is not the issue here; rather the obligation of fighting is learned from other texts. What we learn from this verse is that jizyah may be accepted from people other than the People of the Book, as is the view of many scholars.

Whoever rejects *ṭaghoot* and gives up worshipping anything other than Allah and obeying the *Shayṭān*, and believes in Allah in a complete sense that leads to worshipping and obeying his Lord ﴿has grasped the most trustworthy hand-hold﴾ that is, the true religion, the foundations of the pillars of which are well established; the one who adheres to it will be sure of what he is doing, because he is adhering to the most trustworthy hand-hold ﴿that never breaks﴾. As for the one who does the opposite, he has disbelieved in Allah and has believed in *ṭaghoot*, thus letting go of this trustworthy hand-hold in which is protection and salvation, and he has adhered to every falsehood that will lead him to hell.

﴿And Allah is All-Hearing, All-Knowing﴾ and He will requite each according to his deeds, good or bad; that is the ultimate fate of the one who grasps the most trustworthy hand-hold and the one who does not.

Then Allah mentions the means of attaining that: ﴿Allah is the Protector of those who believe﴾. This is because of their sincerity towards their Lord, as they have taken Him as a friend and they do not seek any alternative to Him or associate anyone with Him. They have chosen Him as the Beloved and Protector, and they have taken His close friends as their friends and His enemies as their enemies. Thus He protects them by His grace and bestows blessings upon them by His kindness; He brings them forth from the darkness of disbelief, sin and ignorance to the light of faith, obedience and knowledge.