

then they sat asking their Lord for forgiveness." This passage speaks of how people are inclined towards the life of this world, then points out that it is nothing more than conveniences that will soon come to an end; this is followed by a description of paradise which is filled with delights. Thus the contrast between this world and the hereafter, and the superiority of the hereafter over this world, is highlighted, in order to point out that people should give precedence to the hereafter and strive for it. The people of paradise are described as pious, then the characteristics of piety are outlined so that one may measure oneself against that and see whether he is one of the people of paradise or not.



﴿ شَهِدَ اللَّهُ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ وَأُولُوا الْعِلْمِ قَالِمًا بِالْقِسْطِ ۚ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ ﴾ (١٨) إِنَّ الَّذِينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْأَسْلَمُ وَمَا اخْتَلَفَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ إِلَّا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَهُمُ الْعِلْمُ بَيْنَهُمْ ۚ وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّهُ سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ ﴿١٩﴾ فَإِنْ حَاجُّوكَ فَقُلْ أَسْلَمْتُ وَجْهِيَ لِلَّهِ وَمَنِ اتَّبَعَنِ ۚ وَقُلْ لِلَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ وَالْأُمِّيَّةَ ۖ أَسْلَمْتُمْ ۖ فَإِنْ أَسْلَمُوا فَقَدِ اهْتَدَوْا ۖ وَإِنْ تَوَلَّوْا فَإِنَّمَا عَلَيْكَ الْبَلَاءُ ۚ وَاللَّهُ بَصِيرٌ بِالْعِبَادِ ﴾ (سورة آل عمران: ١٨-٢٠)

- 3:18. Allah bears witness that there is no god but He, as do His angels and people of knowledge; He is the upholder of justice. There is no god but He, the Almighty, the Most Wise.
- 3:19. Verily the true religion in the sight of Allah is Islam. Those who were given the scripture did not differ except after knowledge had come to them, out of mutual envy and rivalry. But if any disbelieve in the revelations of Allah, then Allah is swift in reckoning.
- 3:20. So if they dispute with you, say: I have submitted my whole self to Allah and so have those who follow me. And say to those who were given the scripture and to the unlettered: Do