

- 3:23. Have you not seen those who have been given a portion of the Book? They are invited to the Book of Allah, so it may judge between them, but a group of them turn away in aversion.
- 3:24. That is because they say: The fire will only touch us for a few days. Thus the lies they fabricated have deceived them with regard to their own religion.
- 3:25. But how [will they fare] when We gather them together on a day about which there is no doubt, and each soul will be paid in full for what it has earned, and none will be wronged?

Here Allah tells us about the People of the Book whom Allah blessed with His Book. It was incumbent upon them to be those who most closely adhered to it and were quickest to submit to its rulings. But, Allah tells us, when they are called to comply with the ruling of the Book, some of them turn away in aversion; they turn away physically and mentally. That is the utmost criticism which contains an implicit warning to us, lest we do what they did, in which case we would be subject to the same criticism and punishment. Rather what is required of everyone, if he is called to the Book of Allah, is to hear and obey, and submit, as Allah (ﷻ) says:

﴿The only response of the believers, when they are called to Allah and His Messenger so that he may judge between them, is to say: We hear and we obey...﴾ (an-Noor 24: 51)

The reason why the People of the Book were deceived into such audacity in disobeying Allah is that they said: ﴿The fire will only touch us for a few days. Thus the lies they fabricated have deceived them with regard to their own religion﴾. They fabricated these words and thought that they were true, so they based their actions on that and did not refrain from falling into sin, because they had developed wishful thinking; they were deceived by thinking that their ultimate destiny was paradise, but they were lying for that was no more than lies and fabrications. Rather their ultimate destiny is the worst of