

were not subject to this condemnation by referring to those others (who were not subject to it). As He mentioned the Children of Israel in particular, this may give the impression that this ruling applies to them only; hence Allah (ﷻ) mentioned the general ruling that applies to all these other groups, so as to clarify the truth and dispel confusion and doubt. Glory be to the One Who has included in His Book that which dazzles the minds of those who have knowledge.

Then Allah (ﷻ) goes back to rebuking the Children of Israel for what their predecessors did:



﴿وَإِذْ أَخَذْنَا مِيثَاقَكُمْ وَرَفَعْنَا فَوْقَكُمُ الطُّورَ خُذُوا مَا آتَيْنَاكُمْ بِقُوَّةٍ وَاذْكُرُوا مَا فِيهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿٦٣﴾ ثُمَّ تَوَلَّيْتُمْ مِنْ بَعْدِ ذَلِكَ فَلَوْلَا فَضْلُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَتُهُ لَكُنْتُمْ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ ﴿٦٤﴾﴾ (سورة البقرة: ٦٣-٦٤)

- 2:63. And [remember] when We made a covenant with you and We raised the Mount above you, [saying]: Hold fast to what We have given you and bear in mind what is in it, so that you may become pious.
- 2:64. But after that you turned away, and were it not for the grace and mercy of Allah to you, you certainly would have been among the losers.

That is, remember ﴿when We made a covenant with you﴾. This refers to a solemn pledge, which is further emphasised by the fearful event of the raising of the Mount above them. It was said to them: ﴿Hold fast﴾ that is, with determination, effort and patience in obeying Allah ﴿to what We have given you﴾ of the Torah ﴿and bear in mind what is in it﴾ that is, what is in your Book, by reciting it and learning it, ﴿so that you may become pious﴾, fearing the punishment and wrath of Allah.