

But after this emphasis on the pledge, «you turned away», which made it inevitable that the severest of penalties should befall you, «and were it not for the grace and mercy of Allah to you, you certainly would have been among the losers».



﴿وَلَقَدْ عَلِمْتُمُ الَّذِينَ اعْتَدَوْا مِنْكُمْ فِي السَّبْتِ فَقُلْنَا لَهُمْ كُونُوا قِرَدَةً خَاسِئِينَ ﴿٦٥﴾ فَجَعَلْنَاهَا نَكَالًا لِّمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهَا وَمَا خَلْفَهَا وَمَوْعِظَةً لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ ﴿٦٦﴾﴾ (سورة البقرة: ٦٥-٦٦)

- 2:65. And you certainly know those amongst you who broke the Sabbath, whereupon We said to them: Be apes, despised and rejected.
- 2:66. So We made their fate an example to their own generation and to those who came after them, and a lesson to those who fear Allah.

That is, the situation of «those amongst you who broke the Sabbath» is something with which you are very familiar. They are the ones whose story is told in detail in Soorat al-A'râf, where Allah (ﷻ) says:

«Ask them about the town which was by the sea and how they broke the Sabbath...» (al-A'râf 7: 163)

Because of this grave sin, they deserved the wrath of Allah and the punishment of being turned into «apes, despised and rejected» that is, disdained and humiliated.

Allah made this punishment «an example to their own generation» that is, the nations that witnessed it and those whom the news reached at that time