

7. And [mention, O Muḥammad], when We took from the prophets their covenant and from you and from Noah and Abraham and Moses and Jesus, the son of Mary; and We took from them a solemn covenant
8. That He may question the truthful about their truth.<sup>1107</sup> And He has prepared for the disbelievers a painful punishment.
9. O you who have believed, remember the favor of Allāh upon you when armies came to [attack] you and We sent upon them a wind and armies [of angels] you did not see. And ever is Allāh, of what you do, Seeing.
10. [Remember] when they came at you from above you and from below you, and when eyes shifted [in fear], and hearts reached the throats, and you assumed about Allāh [various] assumptions.
11. There the believers were tested and shaken with a severe shaking.
12. And [remember] when the hypocrites and those in whose hearts is disease said, "Allāh and His Messenger did not promise us except delusion,"
13. And when a faction of them said, "O people of Yathrib,<sup>1108</sup> there is no stability for you [here], so return [home]." And a party of them asked permission of the Prophet, saying, "Indeed, our houses are exposed [i.e., unprotected]," while they were not exposed. They did not intend except to flee.
14. And if they had been entered upon from all its [surrounding] regions and fitnah [i.e., disbelief] had been demanded of them, they would have done it and not hesitated over it except briefly.
15. And they had already promised Allāh before not to turn their

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<sup>1107</sup> i.e., that He may ask the prophets what they conveyed to their people and what response they received. "The truthful" may also refer to those who believed in the message conveyed by the prophets and imparted it to others.

<sup>1108</sup> The name by which al-Madīnah was known before the arrival of the Prophet (ﷺ).

- backs [i.e., flee]. And ever is the promise to Allāh [that about which one will be] questioned.
16. Say, [O Muḥammad], "Never will fleeing benefit you if you should flee from death or killing; and then [if you did], you would not be given enjoyment [of life] except for a little."
  17. Say, "Who is it that can protect you from Allāh<sup>1109</sup> if He intends for you an ill or intends for you a mercy?" And they will not find for themselves besides Allāh any protector or any helper.
  18. Already Allāh knows the hinderers<sup>1110</sup> among you and those [hypocrites] who say to their brothers, "Come to us,"<sup>1111</sup> and do not go to battle, except for a few,<sup>1112</sup>
  19. Indisposed<sup>1113</sup> toward you. And when fear comes, you see them looking at you, their eyes revolving like one being overcome by death. But when fear departs, they lash you with sharp tongues, indisposed toward [any] good. Those have not believed, so Allāh has rendered their deeds worthless, and ever is that, for Allāh, easy.
  20. They think the companies have not [yet] withdrawn.<sup>1114</sup> And if the companies should come [again], they would wish they were in the desert among the bedouins, inquiring [from afar] about your news. And if they should be among you, they would not fight except for a little.
  21. There has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allāh an excellent pattern<sup>1115</sup> for anyone whose hope is in Allāh and the Last Day and [who] remembers Allāh often.

<sup>1109</sup> i.e., prevent the will of Allāh from being carried out.

<sup>1110</sup> Those who dissuade others from supporting the Prophet (ﷺ) in battle.

<sup>1111</sup> Rather than joining the Prophet (ﷺ).

<sup>1112</sup> Who went out of ulterior motives.

<sup>1113</sup> Literally, "stingy," i.e., unwilling to offer any help.

<sup>1114</sup> In their excessive fear the cowardly hypocrites could not believe the enemy forces had been defeated.

<sup>1115</sup> An example to be followed.