

17. And those who are guided – He increases them in guidance and gives them their righteousness.<sup>1398</sup>
18. Then do they await except that the Hour should come upon them unexpectedly? But already there have come [some of] its indications. Then how [i.e., what good] to them, when it has come, will be their remembrance?
19. So know, [O Muḥammad], that there is no deity except Allāh and ask forgiveness for your sin<sup>1399</sup> and for the believing men and believing women. And Allāh knows of your movement and your resting place.
20. Those who believe say, "Why has a sūrah<sup>1400</sup> not been sent down?" But when a precise sūrah is revealed and fighting is mentioned therein, you see those in whose hearts is disease [i.e., hypocrisy] looking at you with a look of one overcome by death. And more appropriate for them<sup>1401</sup> [would have been]
21. Obedience and good words. And when the matter [of fighting] was determined, if they had been true to Allāh, it would have been better for them.
22. So would you perhaps, if you turned away,<sup>1402</sup> cause corruption on earth and sever your [ties of] relationship?
23. Those [who do so] are the ones that Allāh has cursed, so He deafened them and blinded their vision.
24. Then do they not reflect upon the Qur'ān, or are there locks upon [their] hearts?
25. Indeed, those who reverted back [to disbelief] after guidance had become clear to them – Satan enticed them and prolonged hope for them.

<sup>1398</sup> *Taqwā*, meaning piety, consciousness and fear of Allāh, and care to avoid His displeasure.

<sup>1399</sup> See footnote to 40:55.

<sup>1400</sup> i.e., one in which permission is given the believers to fight their enemies.

<sup>1401</sup> The words "*awlā lahum*" can also be interpreted as "woe to them!" In that case, the following verse would begin, "[Better for them would have been] obedience and good words."

<sup>1402</sup> From Islām or from *jihād* (struggling in the cause of Allāh).

26. That is because they said to those who disliked what Allāh sent down,<sup>1403</sup> "We will obey you in part of the matter." And Allāh knows what they conceal.
27. Then how [will it be] when the angels take them in death, striking their faces and their backs?
28. That is because they followed what angered Allāh and disliked [what earns] His pleasure, so He rendered worthless their deeds.
29. Or do those in whose hearts is disease think that Allāh would never expose their [feelings of] hatred?
30. And if We willed, We could show them to you, and you would know them by their mark; but you will surely know them by the tone of [their] speech. And Allāh knows your deeds.
31. And We will surely test you until We make evident those who strive among you [for the cause of Allāh] and the patient, and We will test your affairs.
32. Indeed, those who disbelieved and averted [people] from the path of Allāh and opposed the Messenger after guidance had become clear to them – never will they harm Allāh at all, and He will render worthless their deeds.
33. O you who have believed, obey Allāh and obey the Messenger and do not invalidate your deeds.
34. Indeed, those who disbelieved and averted [people] from the path of Allāh and then died while they were disbelievers – never will Allāh forgive them.
35. So do not weaken and call for peace while you are superior; and Allāh is with you and will never deprive you of [the reward of] your deeds.
36. [This] worldly life is only amusement and diversion. And if you believe and fear Allāh, He will give you your rewards and not ask you for your properties.

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<sup>1403</sup> i.e., the Jews of Madīnah.