

31. They have taken their scholars and monks as lords besides Allāh,<sup>430</sup> and [also] the Messiah, the son of Mary.<sup>431</sup> And they were not commanded except to worship one God; there is no deity except Him. Exalted is He above whatever they associate with Him.
32. They want to extinguish the light of Allāh with their mouths, but Allāh refuses except to perfect His light, although the disbelievers dislike it.
33. It is He who has sent His Messenger with guidance and the religion of truth to manifest it over all religion, although they who associate others with Allāh dislike it.
34. O you who have believed, indeed many of the scholars and the monks devour the wealth of people unjustly<sup>432</sup> and avert [them] from the way of Allāh. And those who hoard gold and silver and spend it not in the way of Allāh – give them tidings of a painful punishment.
35. The Day when it<sup>433</sup> will be heated in the fire of Hell and seared therewith will be their foreheads, their flanks, and their backs, [it will be said], "This is what you hoarded for yourselves, so taste what you used to hoard."
36. Indeed, the number of months with Allāh is twelve [lunar] months in the register of Allāh [from] the day He created the heavens and the earth; of these, four are sacred.<sup>434</sup> That is the correct religion [i.e., way], so do not wrong yourselves during them.<sup>435</sup> And fight against the disbelievers collectively as they fight against you collectively. And know that Allāh is with the righteous [who fear Him].
37. Indeed, the postponing [of restriction within sacred months] is an increase in disbelief by which those who have disbelieved

<sup>430</sup>By their obedience to them rather than to what Allāh ordained.

<sup>431</sup>By their worship of him in conjunction with Allāh.

<sup>432</sup>i.e., through false pretense.

<sup>433</sup>The gold and silver which was hoarded, i.e., whose *zakāh* was not paid.

<sup>434</sup>See footnote to 9:5.

<sup>435</sup>i.e., do not violate the sacred months or commit aggression therein.

are led [further] astray. They make it<sup>436</sup> lawful one year and unlawful another year to correspond to the number made unlawful by Allāh<sup>437</sup> and [thus] make lawful what Allāh has made unlawful. Made pleasing to them is the evil of their deeds; and Allāh does not guide the disbelieving people.

38. O you who have believed, what is [the matter] with you that, when you are told to go forth in the cause of Allāh, you adhere heavily to the earth?<sup>438</sup> Are you satisfied with the life of this world rather than the Hereafter? But what is the enjoyment of worldly life compared to the Hereafter except a [very] little.
39. If you do not go forth, He will punish you with a painful punishment and will replace you with another people, and you will not harm Him at all. And Allāh is over all things competent.
40. If you do not aid him [i.e., the Prophet (ﷺ)] – Allāh has already aided him when those who disbelieved had driven him out [of Makkah] as one of two,<sup>439</sup> when they were in the cave and he [i.e., Muḥammad (ﷺ)] said to his companion, "Do not grieve; indeed Allāh is with us." And Allāh sent down His tranquility upon him and supported him with soldiers [i.e., angels] you did not see and made the word<sup>440</sup> of those who disbelieved the lowest,<sup>441</sup> while the word of Allāh<sup>442</sup> – that is the highest. And Allāh is Exalted in Might and Wise.
41. Go forth, whether light or heavy,<sup>443</sup> and strive with your wealth

<sup>436</sup>Fighting during a sacred month.

<sup>437</sup>If they found it advantageous to violate a sacred month, they would do so, designating another month in its place in which to observe the restrictions concerning fighting.

<sup>438</sup>i.e., inclining toward the comforts of worldly life.

<sup>439</sup>The second was his companion, Abū Bakr.

<sup>440</sup>i.e., their claims and slogans.

<sup>441</sup>i.e., degraded and dishonored.

<sup>442</sup>"*Lā ilāha ill-Allāh*" ("There is no deity except Allāh").

<sup>443</sup>i.e., young or old, riding or walking, in ease or in hardship – in all circumstances and conditions.