

(158) *“But Allah (SWT) raised him up unto Himself. And Allah (SWT) is Ever All-Powerful, All-Wise.”* i.e. Allah (SWT) raised his body along with his soul up unto Himself as mentioned in the previous *ayah*.

(159) *“And there is none of the people of the Book, but must believe in him, before his death. And on the Day of Resurrection, he will be a witness against them.”* According to the beliefs of *Ahlu-Sunnah wal Jama‘ah*, the second coming of Jesus (AS) is an established fact derived from the *Qur’an* and the Prophetic *Sunnah*. Jesus (AS) will remain on earth for forty years, will get married and will have children. Then he will die, and the Muslims will pray over him and bury him in *Madinah* beside the grave of Umar ibn Al-Khattab (RA). During his life, he will put an end to all the false doctrines associated with him and will reveal that Islam is the true word of Allah (SWT). All the People of the Book present at the time before his death will believe in him, but all those who rejected him before and after his second coming, will be brought in the court of Allah (SWT) on the *Day of Resurrection* and Jesus (AS) will testify against them for their rejection and denial of the truth.

(160) *“For the wrongdoing of those who are Jews”* The word *Jew* is the English word for the Arabic *Yahud*. The word is derived from the name Judah (*Yahudah*), the son of Prophet Jacob (AS). The *Children of Israel* associated themselves with the tribe of *Judah*, thus naming themselves as *Jews* or *Yahud*, instead of what Allah (SWT) referred them to as i.e. the *Children of Israel* (Jacob). *“We made unlawful to them certain good things which had been lawful to them, and for their debarring many from Allah’s (SWT) Way.”* This means, Allah (SWT) made some foods unlawful to the *Jews*, which were previously made lawful to them, because of the transgression and evil deeds committed by them. They not only abandoned the truth revealed by Allah (SWT), but deliberately opposed and placed obstacles for the people, turning them away from His path.

(161) *“And their taking of usury though they were forbidden from taking it and their devouring of men’s substance wrongfully. And We have prepared for the disbelievers among them a painful*

torment." This is another of the crimes committed by the *Children of Israel*. Although they were prohibited from consuming usury (*riba*), yet they did not refrain from it, devouring others properties unlawfully. Allah (SWT) says that such disbelievers will suffer the gravest of punishments in the Hereafter.

(162) *"But those among them who are well-grounded in knowledge, and the believers who believe in what has been sent down to you and what was sent down before you, and those who perform regular prayer, and give obligatory charity and believe in Allah (SWT) and in the Last Day, it is they to whom We shall give a great reward."* Although, most among the People of the Book rejected Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and Allah's (SWT) revelations, yet as this *ayah* informs us, there were some amongst them who were firm in knowledge and believed in what had been revealed to Prophet Muhammad (SAW) i.e. the *Qur'an*, and what had been revealed before him. They established prayer, gave the obligatory charity (*Zakah*) and firmly believed in Allah (SWT) and in the Last Day. These are the people who will receive a great reward from Allah (SWT). This *ayah* was revealed concerning Abdullah ibn Salam (RA), a *Jewish* scholar having deep learning, who embraced Islam and believed in the Prophethood of Muhammad (SAW).

(163) *"We have sent thee inspiration as We sent it to Noah (AS) and the Messengers after him; We sent inspiration to Abraham (AS) Ishmael (AS) Isaac (AS) Jacob (AS) and the Tribes to Jesus (AS) Job (AS) Jonah (AS) Aaron (AS) and Solomon (AS) and to David (AS) We gave the Psalms."* i.e. Allah (SWT) revealed His Book to Prophet Muhammad (SAW) as He revealed to other Prophets before him. He was given the knowledge of the same truth and reality that has always been presented by previous Prophets.

(164) *"And Messengers We have mentioned to you before, and Messengers We have not mentioned to you."* This *ayah* indicates that there were also other Prophets than those mentioned in the holy *Qur'an*. The *Qur'an* says that Allah (SWT) has sent a prophet to every group of people throughout time, and that Muhammad (SAW) is the last of them. But we find only 25 prophets mentioned in the *Qur'an*, so there must be Prophets other than these, as it is narrated in a hadith reported by Ahmed bin Hanbal (RA) that the Prophet (SAW) mentioned that there were 124,000 Prophets in total throughout the history. Many of the Prophets not

mentioned in the *Qur'an* are also found in the the *Torah* and in the *Bible* like *Danial* and *Ishiah*. Among other numerous historical figures, some scholars¹ also believe that Gotham Buddha was a Prophet. They believe that he was Dhul Kifl (AS), one of the Prophets mentioned in the holy *Qur'an*, taking 'Kifl' to be the Arabic pronunciation of *Kapilvastu*, a place where he spent 30 years of his life. But most Muslims have not accepted this point of view as there is no way of knowing for sure that Buddha was a Prophet, since he is not mentioned by name in the *Qur'an*. *"And to Moses (AS) Allah (SWT) spoke directly."* This is why Moses (AS) is also referred to by the title *Kalimullah* meaning, "i.e., Allah spoke directly to Moses (AS)".

(165) *"Messengers as bearers of good news as well as of warning in order that mankind should have no plea against Allah (SWT) after the Messengers."* All the Prophets of Allah (SWT) were sent as a bearer of good news for the ones who obey and follow the commandments of Allah (SWT), as well as a Warner for those who disbelieve and make mischief on earth. Thus the only aim of a Prophet or a Messenger is to guide Allah's (SWT) servants towards the truth, while the final decision on who ultimately attains guidance, rests only with Allah (SWT), as the *Qur'an* says: *"O Prophet (SAW), you cannot give guidance to whom you wish, it is Allah (SWT) Who gives guidance to whom He pleases, and He is quite aware of those who are guided."* ² Allah (SWT) sent all these Messengers and Books to His servants so that on the *Day of Judgment* they do not have any excuse against Allah (SWT) and thus could say *"O our Lord! We certainly would have believed if you would have sent a Messenger to us."* *"And Allah (SWT) is Ever All-Powerful, All-Wise."* In the context of this *ayah*, it means that none has the authority to guide anyone except Allah (SWT), who is All-Powerful and able to guide whoever He wills in accord with His perfect Wisdom.

(166) *"But Allah (SWT) bears witness to that which He has sent down unto you"* This is to emphasize the truth of what Allah (SWT) has sent to His Messenger (SAW). Allah (SWT) Himself testifies the Prophethood of Muhammad (SAW) by confirming the truth of the revelations he was sent with. *"He has sent it down with His Knowledge"* i.e. whatever He revealed to His Prophet is from His own knowledge. *"And the angels bear witness."* i.e. testify to the truth of Prophet Muhammad's (SAW)

Prophet Hood and the Book i.e. the *Qur'an*, revealed to him. *"And Allah (SWT) is All-Sufficient as a Witness."* Although Allah (SWT) mentions the testimony of the angels, yet He alone is Sufficient as a witness, for His Prophets. There is no better witness than Allah (SWT).

(167) *"Verily, those who disbelieve and prevent (others) from the Path of Allah (SWT), they have certainly strayed far away."* This refers to the character of the *Jews* who showed ingratitude towards Allah's (SWT) blessings and although they recognized Prophet Muhammad (SAW) as a true Messenger of Allah (SWT), yet they disbelieved in him and debarred others from his message of true Islamic monotheism by concealing the truth about him written with them in the *Torah* and the *Bible*. Thus Allah (SWT) says that they strayed far away from the right path of truth.

(168) *"Verily, those who disbelieve and did wrong, Allah (SWT) will not forgive them, nor will He guide them to any way."* i.e. Allah (SWT) will neither forgive those who disbelieved in His Prophet (SAW) and continued doing evil deeds nor will He guide them in any way.

(169) *"Except the way of Hell, to dwell therein forever, and this is ever easy for Allah (SWT)."* i.e. their only destination is Hell, wherein they will live forever. And surely this is very easy for Allah (SWT).

(170) *"O mankind! Verily, there has come to you the Messenger (SAW) with the truth from your Lord, so believe in him, it is better for you."* i.e. Allah (SWT) sent His Messenger (SAW) with the truth i.e. the *Qur'an*, as a guide to all mankind. Therefore, He encourages His servants to believe in him and follow him, for it is much better for them. *"But if you disbelieve, then certainly to Allah (SWT) belongs all that is in the heavens and the earth."* i.e. if you disbelieve then you should know that Allah (SWT) is not in need of His creatures; rather all belongs to Him and everything whether in the heavens or on earth is in need of Him. *"And Allah (SWT) is Ever All-Knowing, All-Wise."* He is Knowing, Wise.

(171) *"O people of the Book! Do not exceed the limits in your religion, nor say of Allah (SWT) aught but the truth."* Here the People of the Book referred to are the Christians who are being admonished by Allah (SWT) for their false beliefs and doctrines concerning Prophet Jesus (AS). They are criticized for their extreme behavior in their religion, for exaggerating the status of Prophet Jesus (AS) even above that of Allah (SWT). This is the same as some Muslims do today; they exaggerate the status of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) as do the Christians for Jesus (AS). *"The Messiah Jesus (AS), son of Mary (AS), was (no more than) a Messenger of Allah (SWT) and His Word, which He bestowed on Mary (AS) and a spirit created by Him."* Refuting the false beliefs of the Christians, this *ayah* describes the true status of Jesus (AS) in Islam i.e. as a Messenger of Allah. Secondly in this *ayah* Jesus (AS) has been called the Word of Allah (SWT), because he was born miraculously, when Allah (SWT) said the word 'Be' and he was created through the spirit from Allah (SWT) that He sent to his mother, Mary (AS). It is important to note here that *"the spirit from Allah"* does not indicate that Jesus (AS) is God, as it is believed by the Christians. The *Qur'an* mentions in several places that Allah (SWT) breathed into the human beings *"His Spirit"* as He says: *"When I have fashioned him and breathed into him of My spirit, you do fall down prostrating yourselves unto him."*³ So if by spirit we mean God then every single human being on this planet can be referred to as God, which is nothing less than heresy. *"So believe in Allah (SWT) and His Messengers."* i.e. believe in the Oneness of Allah (SWT) and worship Him alone, and believe in all His Messengers by following them, without exaggerating the status of any of them. *"Say not: "Three (trinity)!" Forbear! It is better for you. For Allah (SWT) is One Allah, Glory be to Him (Far Exalted is He) above having a son."* This *ayah* strongly condemns the Christians for their false doctrine of Trinity, which is as follows: *"God is a single Being who exists, simultaneously and eternally, as a communion of three persons: Father (the Source), the Son i.e. the eternal Logos or Word, incarnate as Jesus of Nazareth, and the Holy Spirit."* But Allah (SWT) rebukes them for their false belief and commands them to refrain from transgressing the limits and give up their belief of Trinity, worshipping Him alone without attributing any partners or sons to Him, and believe in Jesus (AS) only as His Messenger and His servant. *"To Him belong all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth. And Allah (SWT) is All-Sufficient as a Disposer*

of affairs." i.e. everything in the heavens and the earth are Allah's (SWT) creations, so how can there be His son or father among them. Far Exalted is He and All-Sufficient in governing His Kingdom and He does not stand in need of anyone. Allah (SWT) is the All-sufficient, Protector.

(172) *"The Messiah never disdained to be a slave to Allah (SWT), nor the angels who are near (to Allah (SWT)). And whosoever disdains His worship and is proud, He will gather them all together unto Himself."* This means that the Prophets of Allah (SWT) and His angels are never too proud to worship Him or serve Him. They showed self-humiliation in their worship and they never were arrogant. But those who through arrogance are too proud to worship Allah (SWT) and reject Him, will be gathered before Him on the *Day of Resurrection* to receive their punishment.

(173) *"So, as for those who believed and did deeds of righteousness, He will give their (due) rewards, and more out of His Bounty."* On the other hand, those who believe in Allah (SWT) and do righteous deeds will not only be given their due reward for their deeds, but He will also give them more from His own grace. *"But as for those who refuse His worship and were proud, He will punish them with a painful torment. And they will not find for themselves besides Allah (SWT) any protector or helper."* Again to emphasize the gravity of their sin, Allah (SWT) mentions the punishment for those who do not believe in Him and worship Him because of their arrogance. They will suffer a painful punishment in the Hereafter and on that Day they will find none of those whom they worshipped besides Allah (SWT) to help them and protect them from the punishment.

(174) *"O mankind! Verily, there has come to you a convincing proof from your Lord, and We sent down to you a glorious light."* Here *"the proof"* refers to Prophet Muhammad (SAW) who was sent as a mercy and guide for all mankind and the *"glorious light"* refers to the Glorious *Qur'an*, revealed to Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

(175) *"So, as for those who believed in Allah (SWT) and held fast to Him, He will admit them to His Mercy and Grace, and guide them to Himself by a Straight Path."* i.e. those who have firm faith in Allah (SWT) and obey His commandments and refrain from what He

has prohibited, and hold fast to Him (i.e. hold fast to the *Qur'an* and the *Sunnah* of the Prophet (SAW)), then He will bestow on them His mercy in this world and in the Hereafter and will guide them to the straight path which will lead them to Paradise. He will guide them to Him along a straight path.

(176) "They ask you for a legal verdict. Say: "Allah (SWT) directs (thus) about Al-Kalalah (those who leave no descendants or ascendants as heirs). If it is a man that dies, leaving a sister, but no child, she shall have half the inheritance. If (such a deceased was) a woman, who left no child, her brother takes her inheritance. If there are two sisters, they shall have two-thirds of the inheritance; if there are brothers and sisters, the male will have twice the share of the female.""

In *ayah* 12 of this surah Allah (SWT) revealed the law of inheritance in case of *Kalalah*. The *ayah* described the share of a brother or a sister by the same mother but not the same father. Here the share of a brother or sister by the same father is described. It states that if a man dies leaving no heirs, but only a sister then she will inherit half of his property, and if the deceased is a woman and she leaves behind no heirs, then if she has a brother, he will take all of her property but after the payment of those who have a fixed share, like that of a husband or a half brother from his mother's side. If the deceased left two sisters or more, then they get two-third of the inheritance shared between them equally. But if there are brothers and sisters then as it is with the sons and daughters, the male will have twice the share of the female. *"(Thus) does Allah (SWT) makes clear to you (His Law) lest you go astray. And Allah (SWT) is the All-Knower of everything."* i.e. Allah (SWT) makes plain to you His precepts so that you may not err. Certainly, He knows who deserves what, in the share of inheritance. Allah has knowledge of all things.

Foot Notes

[1] One such scholar was Maulana Manazir Ahsan Gilani who believed that Gotham Buddha was Dhul Kifl.

[2] Surah Qasas (28) : 56.

[3] Surah Al-Hijr (15) : 29.