

Sūrat al-Mu'min
Verses 40-41

مَنْ عَمِلَ سَيِّئَةً فَلَا يُجْزَىٰ إِلَّا مِثْلَهَا ۖ وَمَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِّنْ ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنْثَىٰ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ
فَأُولَٰئِكَ يَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ يُرْزَقُونَ فِيهَا بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ

Q 40:40 Whoever does an evil, he shall not be recompensed except with its like, but whoever acts righteously, whether male or female, should he be faithful—such shall enter paradise, and they will be provided therein without any measure.

وَيَا قَوْمِ مَا لِي أَدْعُوكُمْ إِلَى النِّجَاةِ وَتَدْعُونَنِي إِلَى النَّارِ

Q 40:41 And, O my people! how is it that I call you to salvation and you call me to the fire?

Questions for Reflection

- 1) How is the recompense for each type of deed described in verse 40? What do you notice about the different ways God talks about the evil deed and the good deed?
- 2) What does verse 41 convey to the people? (care, concern, wishing well for them)

Commentary

Hizqīl now talks about accounting on the Day of Judgment. Life in this world has responsibility and accountability. Human beings cannot be oblivious of the fact that they will one day die and return back to God, and have to answer for their deeds on earth. Hizqīl brings up justice of God and His Grace and kindness. Those who do evil will be recompensed only according to their deeds but those who do good will get more than the good they have done. They will get an eternal reward which cannot be compared to their deeds.

A few points that are brought out in the verse on good deeds;

- 1) It does not matter whether the doer is male or female. Both are equal spiritually and will be judged according to their deeds and not according to their gender.
- 2) The deeds must be rooted in faith. It is done sincerely for the sake of Allah. A small deed done with faith is much greater in value than a lot that is done without faith.
- 3) Sustenance without measure refers to a reward that is not according to the deeds, but much more, multiplied many times. It is a trade in which the human being profits immensely. This is because he is trading with One who is not afraid that what He gives from is limited and may run out. He is also not miserly. He has unending sources and is the Master of all things. He thus gives without measure.

A question that may arise here is that in another verse Allah says; *Whoever brings a good deed, he shall have ten like it, and whoever brings an evil deed, he shall be recompensed only with the like of it, and they shall not be dealt with unjustly* (6:160). Does that conflict with this verse? The answer is that 10 times is the minimum reward. In another verse for example, charity is said to be multiplied seven hundred times - *The parable of those who spend their property in the way of Allah is as the parable of a grain growing seven ears with a hundred grains in every ear; and Allah multiplies for whom He pleases; and Allah is Ample-giving, Knowing* (2:261).

In verse 41 note the concern in Hizqīl's words – a repeat of 'O my people'. He wants them to understand that he is inviting them towards a path that will lead to their rescue and success. Such determination despite the forces of Fir'aun and his people is admirable. It shows steadfastness and focus. It seems that the people he was talking to rejected him and continued in their stubborn ways, disbelieving in God and the Hereafter. So Hizqīl pleads with them, reminding them of where they want to take him and what he is inviting them towards.

Verse 41 begins the fifth section of Hizqīl's speech. He has now put Taqiyya aside and is open in his declaration of inviting people towards One God.

Connecting verses

- 1) Trading with Allah – 35:29, 61:10, 9:111.
- 2) Reward without measure – 24:38, 39:10,
- 3) Men and women being judged equally – 3:195, 4:124, 16:97

Connecting topics

- 1) Grace of Allah

<https://knowingallah.com/en/articles/grace-faith-and-works-the-grace-of-god>

<http://balagha.net/journey-to-allah/acknowledging-grace-of-allah>

(see notes on Dua of Daimul Fadhl, a du'a beseeching God's Grace)

- 2) Trading with Allah

<https://questionsonislam.com/article/most-profitable-and-real-trade-selling-self-and-wealth-allah-almighty>