

Sūrat al-Mu'min
Verses 42-43

تَدْعُونِي لِأَكْفُرَ بِاللَّهِ وَأُشْرِكَ بِهِ مَا لَيْسَ لِي بِهِ عِلْمٌ وَأَنَا أَدْعُوكُمْ إِلَى الْعَزِيزِ الْغَفَّارِ

Q40:42 - You invite me to defy Allah and to ascribe to Him partners of which I have no knowledge, while I call you to the All-Mighty, the All-Forgiver.

لَا جَرَمَ أَنْمَا تَدْعُونِي إِلَيْهِ لَيْسَ لَهُ دَعْوَةٌ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَلَا فِي الْآخِرَةِ وَأَنْ مَرَدَّنَا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَأَنَّ الْمُسْرِفِينَ هُمْ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ

Q40:43 - Undoubtedly, that which you invite me to has no invitation, not in the world nor in the Hereafter. Indeed, our return will be to Allah, and indeed it is the transgressors who will be inmates of the Fire.

Questions for Reflection

- 1) What is the difference between the invitations of Hizqīl and his people?
- 2) What is meant by no invitation, in the world and or the Hereafter? (no Prophets came to invite towards the false gods, nor is there any authority for them in the Hereafter)
- 3) How is God described in these verses?

Commentary

The people of Egypt worshipped Fir'awn as god, as well as many other idols who were their gods for various aspects of life. Hizqīl reminds them that by rejecting his invitation to worship One God, they are indicating that he should associate with Allah and worship their gods. They had no proofs of the truth of their gods. It was a way of life that was full of darkness. It was also dangerous as it was a blind following without reason, understanding, or knowledge.

On the other hand, the road he was inviting them towards was the straight path towards God. It was towards a Lord who was Mighty and has power over all other things. He was also all-Forgiving, so their past could be forgiven. The two qualities that Hizqīl uses to describe Allah conveys to the people the idea of God as a powerful and kind Creator, who will forgive and accept them. It refers to two aspects of fear and hope in God. Both are necessary for the believer.

In verse 43 Hizqīl tells them that the false gods have no purpose at all. There were no Prophets who invited people towards idol worshipping. Imam Ali (a) says in Nahjul Balagha; *Know O my child, if there had been a partner with your Lord, his messengers too should have come to you*

and you would have seen signs of his authority and power and have known his deeds and qualities. But He is only One God as He has described Himself. (Letter no.31, his advice to his son). In the Hereafter, these gods will be non-existent. The idol worshippers will have no gods to turn to and will blame each other for their wrong beliefs.

Tafsir al-Nur also mentions the following understandings of the wrong gods (both idols and tyrants like Fir‘awn) having no invitation in both the worlds;

- they are unable to answer the call of their worshippers
- they have no clear and rational message for the people
- they do not value the invitation towards One God

A couple of points regarding verse 43;

- a) The word ‘undoubtedly’ at the beginning of the verse is a strong and clear word to use. Believers are firm in their thoughts and words.
- b) The word ‘Musrifin’ has been translated as transgressing. It also means wasting, not using appropriately. Wasting is not just for physical resources. Life and potential can also be wasted. That will be the loss for those who reject God.

Now Hizqīl had made his stance on Tawhid very clear. He did not mince his words and openly declared the wrongfulness of idol worship. Truth and Falsehood are defined clearly. He knew that his words would enrage Fir‘awn and his ministers but he was not afraid. His love for God and passion for guiding the people overcame his fear of consequences. He made the path of Tawhid very clear from the path of shirk. That is a sign of a good preacher. He does not leave things ambiguous or vague. His words are focused and purposeful.

Connecting verses

- 1) Associating with God – 31:13, 4:48
- 2) Forgiveness – 39:53, 4:110

Connecting topics

- 1) Forgiveness of God.

<http://www.shiavault.com/books/understanding-the-month-of-glory-lessons-on-the-month-of-ramadhan/chapters/11-seeking-forgiveness-from-allah>
<http://en.al-shia.org/content/hope-allahs-forgiveness>

- 2) Fear and Hope in God.

<https://en.shafaqna.com/35887/hope-and-fear-are-two-wings-of-the-belief/>

