

Surah 2. Al-Baqara

Asad: CAN YOU, then, hope that they will believe in what you are preaching⁶⁰ - seeing that a good many of them were wont to listen to the word of God and then, after having understood it, to pervert it knowingly?⁶¹

Malik: Do you, O Believers, still hope that they will believe in what you say, when some of them have already heard the word of Allah and perverted it knowingly after they understood it?

Mustafa Khattab:

Do you ?believers still? expect them to be true to you, though a group of them would hear the word of Allah then knowingly corrupt it after understanding it?

Pickthall: Have ye any hope that they will be true to you when a party of them used to listen to the Word of Allah, then used to change it, after they had understood it knowingly?

Yusuf Ali: Can ye (O ye men of Faith) entertain the hope that they will believe in you? Seeing that a party of them heard the word of Allah and perverted it knowingly after they understood it.

Transliteration: AfataṭmaAAoona an yuminoo lakum waqad kana fareequn minhum yasmaAAoona kalāma Allāhi thumma yuharrifoonahu min baAAadi ma AAaqalooahu wahum yaAAlamoona

Author Comments

60 - Here the Muslims are addressed. In the early period of Islam - and especially after their exodus to Medina, where many Jews were then living - the Muslims expected that the Jews, with their monotheistic beliefs, would be the first to rally to the message of the Qur'an: a hope that was disappointed because the Jews regarded their own religion as a kind of national heritage reserved to the children of Israel alone, and did not believe in the necessity - or possibility - of a new revelation.

61 - Cf. Jeremiah xxiii, 26- "Ye have perverted the words of the living God".

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