



The General Presidency for the Affairs of  
the Grand Holy Mosque and the Prophet's Holy Mosque

Translation of the Two Holy Mosques Khutbahs  
A Joint Project



Al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University  
College of Languages and Translation

[13-5-35 – B – Al-Hudhaifi]

المسجد النبوي

## Paradise and Hellfire in the Qur'an and the *Sunnah*

His Eminence Sheikh Ali ibn Abdur-Rahman Al-Hudhaifi, may Allah preserve him, delivered the Friday *khutbah* entitled, "Paradise and Hellfire in the Qur'an and the *Sunnah*", in which he talked about some references to Paradise and Hellfire in the Book of Allah and the *Sunnah* of His Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him). He described the horrors of crossing the *Sirat* (the bridge set over Hellfire) and the other obstacles preceding this. He also talked about the Prophet's Great Intercession on the Day of Resurrection.

### Part One

Praise be to Allah, the All-Mighty, the Most Forgiving, the Most Forbearing, and the Most Appreciative of His servants' good deeds. He records all people's deeds and will give them full due for them.

**﴿Surely! Allah wrongs not even of the weight of a small ant, but if there is any good (done), He doubles it, and gives from Him a great reward.﴾ (An-Nisaa: 40)**

I praise my Lord and thank Him. I turn to Him in repentance and ask Him for forgiveness. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah alone, Who has no partners, and Who is the All-Knower of what is hidden in the breasts, and I bear witness that our prophet and master Muhammad is His servant and Messenger, the caller to every righteous deed. O Allah! Bestow Your peace, prayers, and blessings upon Your servant and messenger Muhammad and upon his family and Companions, and multiply our rewards by doing so.



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O Muslims!

Fear Allah by seeking His good pleasure and abandoning what He has forbidden, and He will grant you His good pleasure and His Paradise and protect you from His wrath and punishment.

O Muslims!

There are great horrors, hardships, and afflictions that lie in your way to Paradise. However, Allah, Exalted be He, will make it easy for the pious and the obedient to overcome these ordeals. As for those who follow forbidden desires and their own whims, they have indeed chosen the path leading to Hell.

People fall into sins because of the temptations and forbidden pleasures surrounding them, but striving hard to show obedience to Allah is far better than following desires. Piety is the road to happiness and all good, it leads to the best outcome in this life and in the hereafter, and it is a sign of Allah's good pleasure. Conversely, disobedience to Allah is a token of misery and failure in this life and in the hereafter and leads to an evil outcome and great loss. Allah, Exalted be He, says:

**﴿That home of the Hereafter (i.e. Paradise), We shall assign to those who rebel not against the truth with pride and oppression in the land nor do mischief (by committing crimes). And the good end is for the *Muttaqûn* (the pious).﴾ (Al-Qassas: 83)**

Allah, Exalted be He, also says:

**﴿On the Day when those who disbelieve (in the Oneness of Allah – Islamic Monotheism) will be exposed to the Fire (it will be said): “You received your good things in the life of the world, and you took your pleasure therein. Now this Day you shall be recompensed with a torment of humiliation, because you were arrogant in the**



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land without a right, and because you used to rebel against Allah's  
Command (disobey Allah)".﴾ (Al-Ahqaf: 20)

Allah, Glorified be He, also says,

﴿... Say (O Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him)): "The  
losers are those who will lose themselves and their families on the  
Day of Resurrection. Verily, that will be a manifest loss!" They shall  
have coverings of Fire above them, and covering (of Fire) beneath  
them. With this Allah does frighten His slaves: "O My slaves,  
therefore fear Me!"﴾ (Az-Zumar: 15-16)

Abu Hurairah, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet, peace  
and blessings be upon him, said, **"Hellfire is surrounded by lustful desires and  
Paradise is surrounded by hardships"** (Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim). Abu  
Hurairah, may Allah be pleased with him, also narrated that the Prophet, peace and  
blessings be upon him, said:

**"When Allah created Paradise, He said to Jibril (Angel Gabriel), 'Go  
and look at it.' He went and looked at it, then came and said, 'By  
Your might, there is no one who hears of it but will enter it.' Then  
Allah surrounded it with hardships and said to Jibril, 'Go and look at  
it.' He went and looked at it, then came and said, 'By Your might, I  
fear that no one will enter it.' And when Allah created Hellfire, He  
said to Jibril, 'Go and look at it.' He went and looked at it, then came  
and said, 'By Your might, there is no one who hears of it and then  
enters it.' Then Allah surrounded it with lustful desires and said to  
Jibril, 'Go and look at it.' He went and looked at it, then came and  
said, 'By Your might, I fear that no one will be safe from it.'"**  
(Reported by Abu-Dawud, At-Tirmidhi, and An-Nasa'i)



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If the servant could imagine the last hardship and the greatest obstacle that stands in his way to Paradise and if he could always bear it in mind, he would definitely mend his ways and be careful to do righteous deeds in order to save himself from an intensely hot fire that has a fathomless bottom and hooked rods of iron and attain Paradise, with its infinite, never-ending delights.

Servants of Allah!

The *Sirat*, or the bridge that is set over Hellfire, is the insurmountable obstacle, the greatest hardship, and the severest affliction on the Day of Resurrection. Allah has decreed and ruled that no one will enter Paradise unless he goes over it and passes it. Allah judges, there is none to put back His Judgement, and He is Swift at reckoning. No one will be able to cross that bridge unless he has performed good deeds that please Allah and are acceptable to Him. Those who are prevented by their evil deeds from crossing it will fall into Hellfire. What an evil place to settle in! And your Lord does not wrong anyone.

When this bridge is laid over Hellfire, excessive panic will spread among people and fill their hearts with fear. Eyes will stare in horror and every one will be concerned about his own affairs and will forget about anyone else. Even the prophets, peace and blessings be upon them, will not remember their families at that time. Aisha, may Allah be pleased with her, said:

**“I once thought of Hell and I wept. The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, asked me, ‘Why are you weeping?’ I replied, ‘I have thought of Hell and that has made me weep. Will you (prophets) remember your families on the Day of Resurrection?’ He said, ‘There are three situations in which no one will remember anyone else: when the scales [of weighing good and bad deeds] are set until one knows whether his weight will be light or heavy; when the records of deeds**



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A Joint Project



Al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University  
College of Languages and Translation

**are thrown until one knows whether his book will be placed into his right hand, into his left hand, or behind his back; and when the *Sirat* is placed across Hellfire until one crosses it.”** (Reported by Abu-Dawud)

Abu Hurairah, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated that the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said,

**“...Then a bridge will be laid over Hellfire. I will be the first of all messengers to cross it along with my *ummah*. No one will utter any word on that day except for the messengers, whose words on that Day will be, ‘O Allah! Grant safety! Grant safety!’ In Hell there will be hooks similar to the thorns of Sa‘dan (a thorny tree). Have you seen the thorns of Sa‘dan?”** The Companions said, “Yes, we have.” He said, “So the hooks over that bridge will be like the thorns of Sa‘dan except that none but Allah knows how big they are. They will snatch the people according to their deeds. Some people will be ruined because of their evil deeds; some will be cut into pieces, but will be saved afterwards...” (Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

Abu Said Al-Khudri, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated that the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said,

**“... Then the bridge will be set up over Hell, and intercession be allowed.”** The Prophet’s Companions then asked, “O Allah’s Messenger! What is this bridge?” He said, “A path on which one is likely to slip, with hooks, tongs, and spits like the thorn found in Najd which is called Sa‘dan. The believers will then pass over it, some in the twinkling of an eye, some like lightning, some like wind, some like birds, and some like the finest horses and camels. Some people will



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College of Languages and Translation

**escape and be safe, some will be lacerated and let go, and some will be pushed into the Hellfire.”** (Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

Hudhaifah ibn Al-Yaman and Abu Hurairah, may Allah be pleased with them, narrated that the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said,

**“Allah, Blessed and Exalted be He, will assemble mankind, and the believers will stand until Paradise is brought near them. They will then go to Adam and say, ‘O our father! Ask Allah that Paradise may be opened for us.’ He will reply, ‘There was nothing that put you out of Paradise except your father’s sin. I am not the one to do that; go to my son Ibrahim (Abraham), the *Khalil* (close friend) of Allah.’ Ibrahim, when approached, will say, ‘I am not the one to do that, for I was only a friend and Allah did not speak to me directly. Ask Musa (Moses) to whom Allah spoke directly.’ They will then go to Musa but he will say, ‘I am not the one to do that; go to ‘Isa (Jesus), who is Allah’s Word and a spirit from Him.’ ‘Isa will say, ‘I am not the one to do that.’ So they will come to Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) and he will stand and be given permission. Trust and ties of kinship will be sent forth and will stand on the sides of the *Sirat* [the bridge set over Hellfire] on the right and the left, and the first of you will pass like lightning.”** I said [that is Abu Hurairah], **“May my father and mother be sacrificed for you (O Messenger of Allah)! What is the movement of lightning?”** He said, **“Have you not seen how lightning goes and returns in the twinkling of an eye? The next [group will pass] like the passing of the wind, the next like the passing of a bird, and the next with the speed of a running man. It is their deeds that push them. [During all this time] Your Prophet will remain standing on the *Sirat* saying, ‘O my Lord! Grant safety! Grant safety!’**



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the Grand Holy Mosque and the Prophet's Holy Mosque

Translation of the Two Holy Mosques Khutbahs  
A Joint Project



Al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University  
College of Languages and Translation

**until people's deeds can no longer help them, such that a man can no longer move except through crawling. ... On both sides of the *Sirat* there will be hanging hooks placed under command, which will seize those about whom they are commanded. Some people will be lacerated and then saved and others will be pushed into Hell. By Him in Whose Hand Abu Hurairah's soul is, the pit of Hellfire is seventy years in depth.”** (Reported by Muslim)

Another version of the *hadith* has the following wording, **“Some of them will indeed be dragged on the *Sirat*.”**

Those who disbelieve and are engulfed in their evil deeds will fall into Hellfire, which will be presented to them as a mirage, the raging flames of which will be consuming one another, and they will feel as hungry and thirsty as they have never been before (as reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim).

Before that, the Master of Mankind, Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, will be given permission for the Great Intercession for the servants with the Lord of mankind when He judges amongst people. Our Prophet is permitted intercession on other occasions. He will intercede on the plain where all mankind will be gathered for judgement, and after that the prophets, peace and blessings be upon them, the angels, and the believers, will also intercede, all by Allah's leave, Exalted be He. The intercession will cover every person who does not associate any partner with Allah. Polytheists will by no means benefit from this intercession. Allah, Exalted be He, says:

**﴿So no intercession of intercessors will be of any use to them.﴾** (Al-Muddath-thir: 48)

Even the intercession of our forefather Ibrahim (Abraham), peace and blessings be upon him, for his father will not be accepted, for Allah, Blessed and Exalted be He,



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Translation of the Two Holy Mosques Khutbahs  
A Joint Project



Al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University  
College of Languages and Translation

will say to him [on the Day of Judgement], **“I have forbidden Paradise to the disbelievers,”** as reported in *Sahih Al-Bukhari*.

How happy and successful those are who will enter the Gardens of Delight! And how wretched those are whose eternal abode will be Hellfire!

Anas ibn Malik, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated that the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said,

**“The most miserable man [in this world] from the dwellers of Paradise will be brought and dipped but once in Paradise, and then he will be asked, ‘O son of Adam! Have you ever seen any misery? Have you ever suffered any hardship?’ He will say, ‘No, by Allah, O my Lord! I have never seen any misery, nor have I suffered any hardship.’ The man who had the most luxurious life in this world from among the dwellers of Hell will be brought and dipped in the Fire but once, and then he will be asked, ‘O son of Adam! Have you ever seen any good? Have you ever found any pleasure?’ He will say, ‘No, by Allah, O my Lord!’”** (Reported by Muslim)

O you who are heedless of what lies ahead of you! O you who waste your days! O you who are deceived by this worldly life! O you who are forgetful of your hereafter! O you who have been enslaved by pleasures and desires! Will you not wake up before death strikes? Will you not take lessons from the punishments that hit those before us? Will you not draw morals from the signs that you can see?

Know that holding fast to Allah’s straight path in this world will keep your feet firm as you pass on the *Sirat* set up over Hell in the hereafter. As you do, so you will be rewarded or punished. Allah, Exalted be He, says:





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Translation of the Two Holy Mosques Khutbahs  
A Joint Project



Al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University  
College of Languages and Translation

﴿And follow the best of that which is sent down to you from your Lord (i.e. this Qur'an, do what it orders you to do and keep away from what it forbids), before the torment comes on you suddenly while you perceive not! Lest a person should say: "Alas, my grief that I was undutiful to Allah (i.e. I have not done what Allah has ordered me to do), and I was indeed among those who mocked [at the truth! i.e. *La ilaha illallah* (none has the right to be worshipped but Allah), the Qur'an, and Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, and at the faithful believers]. Or (lest) he should say: "If only Allah had guided me, I should indeed have been among the *Muttaqun* (the pious). Or (lest) he should say when he sees the torment: "If only I had another chance (to return to the world) then I should indeed be among the *Muhsinun* (good-doers). Yes! Verily, there came to you My *Ayat* (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) and you denied them, and were proud and were among the disbelievers. And on the Day of Resurrection you will see those who lied against Allah (i.e. attributed to Him sons, partners) – their faces will be black. Is there not in Hell an abode for the arrogant? And Allah will deliver those who are the *Muttaqun* (the pious) to their places of success (Paradise). Evil shall touch them not, nor shall they grieve.﴾ (Az-Zumar: 55-61)

May Allah bless you and me with the Great Qur'an and make us benefit from its verses and wise words and benefit from the guidance and right sayings of the Imam of Messengers. I have said what you have heard and I ask forgiveness of Allah for myself, for you, and for all Muslims for any sin we have committed. Ask Allah for forgiveness. He is the Most Forgiving, the Most Merciful.



The General Presidency for the Affairs of  
the Grand Holy Mosque and the Prophet's Holy Mosque

Translation of the Two Holy Mosques Khutbahs  
A Joint Project



Al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University  
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## Part Two

Praise be to Allah, the All-Mighty, the All-Wise, the All-Hearer, and the All-Knower. I praise my Lord and thank Him. I turn to Him in repentance and ask Him for forgiveness. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah alone, Who has no partners, the Most High, the Most Great, and I bear witness that our prophet and master Muhammad is His servant and messenger, whose breast Allah opened for him and whose fame Allah raised high when he said:

**﴿And verily, you (O Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him))  
are on an exalted (standard of) character.﴾ (Al-Qalam: 4)**

O Allah! Bestow Your prayers, peace, and blessings upon Your servant and messenger Muhammad and upon his family and Companions, the supporters of this straight religion.

O Muslims!

Fear Allah as He should be feared, and grasp the trustworthy handhold of Islam.

Servants of Allah!

Remember Allah's favours to you and thank Him for blessing you with them by hastening to show obedience to Him and by abhorring all that He has forbidden. How bountiful Allah's favours are to us and to all people! How great His mercy, generosity, and munificence are!

One sign of Allah's mercy to us is that He taught us the greatest, broadest, and most beneficial supplication that contains all good, namely, the Qur'anic verse in which Allah, Exalted be He, instructs and requires us to say to Him:

**﴿Guide us to the Straight Way.﴾ (Al-Fatihah: 6)**



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Translation of the Two Holy Mosques Khutbahs  
A Joint Project



Al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University  
College of Languages and Translation

This is the best and most encompassing supplication for safety from evil in *Surat Al-Fatihah* (the Opening of the Noble Qur'an).

“The Straight Way” in the above verse has been interpreted as the *Sirat*, the bridge set over Hell, and guidance to it has been interpreted to mean crossing it safely without falling into Hellfire. “The Straight Way” has also been interpreted as Islam. It has also been interpreted as Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him. There is no contradiction at all among all these interpretations, as each one of them implies the others; for no one will be truly guided and no one will have his feet kept firm on the bridge set over Hellfire and be able pass it safely except those who follow in the footsteps of Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, and believe in his religion (Islam), in which he followed the prophets before him, peace and blessings be upon them. Allah, Exalted be He, says:

**﴿Then, We have sent the revelation to you (O Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, saying): “Follow the religion of Ibrahim (Abraham) *Hanif* (Islamic Monotheism – to worship none but Allah) and he was not of the *Mushrikun* (polytheists, idolaters, and disbelievers).﴾ (An-Nahl:123)**

Allah sent the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, with a well-preserved religion that cannot be changed or altered in any way. In this religion, Allah has shown us the interpolations, changes, and alterations made by people in the religion of the previous prophets, peace and blessings be upon them. Allah, Exalted be He, says:

**﴿And verily, this (i.e. Allah’s Commandments mentioned in the above two Verses 151 and 152) is My Straight Path, so follow it, and follow not (other) paths, for they will separate you away from His Path. This He has ordained for you that you may become *Al-Muttaqun* (the pious).﴾ (Al-An‘am: 153)**



The General Presidency for the Affairs of  
the Grand Holy Mosque and the Prophet's Holy Mosque

Translation of the Two Holy Mosques Khutbahs  
A Joint Project



Al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University  
College of Languages and Translation

Servants of Allah!

﴿Allah sends His *Salat* (Graces, Honours, Blessings, Mercy) on the Prophet (Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him)) and also His angels (ask Allah to bless and forgive him). O you who believe! Send your *Salat* on (ask Allah to bless) him (Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him)), and (you should) greet (salute) him with the Islamic way of greeting (salutation, i.e. *As-Salamu 'Alaikum*).﴾  
(Al-Ahzab: 56)

The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said, **“If a person asks Allah to send blessings upon me once, Allah will send blessings upon him ten times over.”**

So ask Allah to bestow His peace and blessings on the master of those who preceded us and those who are yet to come and the Imam of Messengers. O Allah! Bestow Your peace upon Muhammad and his family, as You bestowed Your peace upon Ibrahim and his family; You are All-Praiseworthy, All-Glorious. O Allah! Bestow Your blessings upon Muhammad and his family, as You bestowed Your blessings upon Ibrahim and his family; You are All-Praiseworthy, All-Glorious. O Allah! Bestow Your bountiful peace and blessings upon Muhammad and his family.

O Allah! Be pleased with all the Companions. O Allah! Be pleased with the Rightly-Guided Caliphs, Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, and Ali, along with all the Companions. O Allah! Be pleased with the contemporaries of the Companions who followed them and who did not see the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him (*Tabi'un*), and with those who follow them in righteousness until the Day of Judgment. O Allah! Be pleased with us together with them, by Your grace, munificence, and mercy, O Most Merciful of all the merciful!



The General Presidency for the Affairs of  
the Grand Holy Mosque and the Prophet's Holy Mosque

Translation of the Two Holy Mosques Khutbahs  
A Joint Project



Al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University  
College of Languages and Translation

O Allah! Keep us and all Muslims firm upon the *Sunnah* of Your prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him. O Allah! O Lord of the Worlds! Make us among his followers in this world and in the hereafter. You are Allah, the Owner of Great Bounty!

O Allah! Show us the truth as it really is and help us follow it, and show falsehood as it really is and help us avoid it. Do not make it confusing to us for fear we might go astray, O Lord of the Worlds!

O Allah! We ask you for Paradise and every word or deed that brings us closer to it, and seek refuge in You from Hellfire and every word or deed that brings us closer to it.

O Allah! We ask You to forgive us the sins that we have committed and the sins that we may commit in the future, the sins that we have committed in secret and the sins that we have committed in public, and what You know better than we do. You are the Expediter and the Delayer. There is no god but You!

O Allah! Forgive the sins of our dead and the sins of all dead Muslims, O Lord of the Worlds! O Allah! Ease the affairs of Muslims, men and women, and ease the affairs of all believers, men and women.

O Allah! We ask You, O Owner of Majesty and Honour, to bring together all Muslims' hearts. O Allah! Unify the Muslims' hearts upon the truth, O Lord of the Worlds!

O Allah! Grant us and all Muslims sound understanding of Your religion, O Lord of the Worlds!

O Allah! We ask You, O Owner of Majesty and Honour, to forgive us our sins, O Most Merciful of all the merciful!



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A Joint Project



Al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University  
College of Languages and Translation

O Allah! Grant us safety in our homelands and make good our rulers, by Your mercy, O Most Merciful of all the merciful!

O Allah! We ask You to protect us. O Allah! Protect us. O Allah! Protect us and our offspring from Satan, the outcast, and from his offspring, devils, and soldiers, O Lord of the Worlds! O Allah! Protect all Muslims from Satan, the outcast, and from his offspring, O Lord of the Worlds! You are Powerful over all things!

O Allah! You are Allah and there is no god but You! We ask You to have mercy on us. O Allah! Send down rain upon us and do not make us among the despairing.

O Allah! Relieve the distress of Muslims. O Allah! Relieve the distress of Muslims. O Allah! Protect Muslims from deluding trials. O Allah! Spare the blood of Muslims in every place afflicted by turmoil, O Lord of the Worlds! O Allah! Spare their blood. O Allah! Protect their religion. O Allah! Protect the Muslims' religion. O Allah! Protect their property. O Allah! Protect their honour. O Allah! Provide food for the hungry among them. O Allah! Provide clothes for the unclothed among them! O Allah! Provide homes for the displaced among them, O Lord of the Worlds!

O Allah! Take revenge upon those who have oppressed and tyrannized them, O Lord of the Worlds, and take revenge upon those who fought against Your religion and against the *Sunnah* of Your prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him.

O Allah! There is no god but You! You are Powerful over all things. Do not leave us to ourselves and do not leave Muslims to themselves for the blink of an eye; You are Powerful over all things, O Lord of the Worlds!

O Allah! We seek refuge in You from deluding trials. O Allah! Save us from rise in prices, plagues, usury, adultery, fornication, earthquakes, trials, and evil trials, apparent and hidden.



The General Presidency for the Affairs of  
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A Joint Project



Al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University  
College of Languages and Translation

O Allah! Guide the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to do whatever You love and accept. O Allah! Lead him to Your guidance and make all his deeds pleasing to You. O Allah! Guide him to do what brings about victory to Your religion, O Lord of the Worlds! O Allah! Grant him good health; You are Powerful over all things. O Allah! Guide the Crown Prince to what You love and accept and to all that is good, O Lord of the Worlds! O Allah! Guide both of them to all that is good and to whatever brings about victory to Islam and Muslims.

O Allah! Protect our countries. O Allah! Protect our countries from every evil and harm. O Allah! Protect our countries from the oppressors. O Allah! Protect our countries, O Lord of the Worlds! O Allah! Protect us from the evil of all evildoers; You are Powerful over all things! O Allah! Protect us from the evil within ourselves, from our wrong deeds, and from the evil of all evildoers, O Lord of the Worlds!

Servants of Allah!

Allah, Blessed and Exalted be He, has commanded you to pray to Him, and has promised you to answer your prayers.

﴿... Our Lord! Give us that which is good in this world and that which is good in the Hereafter, and save us from the torment of the Fire!﴾ (Al-Baqarah: 201)

Servants of Allah!

﴿Verily, Allah enjoins *Al-Adl* (i.e. justice and worshipping none but Allah Alone – Islamic Monotheism) and *Al-Ihsan* [i.e. to be patient in performing your duties to Allah, totally for Allah's sake and in accordance with the *Sunnah* (legal ways) of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) in a perfect manner], and giving (help) to kith and kin (i.e. all that Allah has ordered you to give them, e.g.,



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A Joint Project



Al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University  
College of Languages and Translation

wealth, visiting, looking after them, or any other kind of help, etc.); and forbids *Al-Fahsha'* (i.e. all evil deeds, e.g. illegal sexual acts, disobedience of parents, polytheism, to tell lies, to give false witness, to kill a life without right, etc.), and *Al-Munkar* (i.e. all that is prohibited by Islamic law: polytheism of every kind, disbelief and every kind of evil deeds, etc.), and *Al-Baghy* (i.e. all kinds of oppression), He admonishes you, that you may take heed. And fulfil the Covenant of Allah (*Bai'a*: pledge for Islam) when you have covenanted, and break not the oaths after you have confirmed them, and indeed you have appointed Allah your surety. Verily! Allah knows what you do.) (An-Nahl: 90-91)

Remember Allah, the Most Great, the Sublime, and He will remember you. Thank Him for His blessings and favours and He will give you more. Verily, remembrance of Allah is greater than all, and Allah knows what you do.