

Concerning The Promise (al-wa`d) And The Threat (al-wa'id)

Says the Shaykh Abu Ja'far: Our belief concerning the Promise (*al-wa`d*) and the Threat (*al-wa'id*) 1 is that he whom Allah promises a reward for his good actions will certainly receive it. But he whom Allah has threatened with a punishment may have an alternative. If He punishes him, it is His justice; but if He forgives, it is His generosity.²

“And thy Lord is not unjust towards His slaves” (Qur'an 41:46).

And He says, Mighty and Glorious is He:

“Lo! Allah forgiveth not that a partner should be ascribed unto Him. And He forgiveth (all) save that to whom He will” (Qur'an 4:116).

And Allah knows best.

1. In the Tawhid there is a whole chapter on the subject, pp. 3257 to 3306. Imam ar-Rida refutes the arguments of the Mu'taziliti that grave sins will not be forgiven by Allah, 3267–8. Even adulterers, thieves and wine-drinkers will be saved, provided they are not guilty of shirk, 329 (last three lines). Cp. also FC, no. 84.

2. Compare Fiqh Akbar II, art. 14, MC, 193, fully discussed at p.221, MC, 267, art. 25; BHA, no. 233.

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