

القرآن الكريم

﴿وَأَنْ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ إِلَّا لِيُؤْمِنُوا بِهِ قَبْلَ مَوْتِهِ﴾



(النساء: ١٥٩)

Question

Allāh عَزَّ وَجَلَّ says in *sūrah al-Nisā'* āyah 159:

﴿وَأَنْ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ إِلَّا لِيُؤْمِنُوا بِهِ قَبْلَ مَوْتِهِ﴾

Please explain the grammar.

I don't understand it because of the structure:

﴿إِنْ مِنْ ... إِلَّا لِيُؤْمِنُوا﴾

Faḍīlat al-Shaykh Dr. V. Abdur Rahim (حفظه الله) replies:



First of all, the word ﴿إِنْ﴾ here is the negative particle التَّأْيِيدُ «إِنْ».

It is like مَا.

There are two *i'rābs* of this part of the *āyah*. They are:

1) The phrase ﴿مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ﴾ is the *na't* of أَحَدٌ which is *muqaddar*:

«وَإِنْ أَحَدٌ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ...»

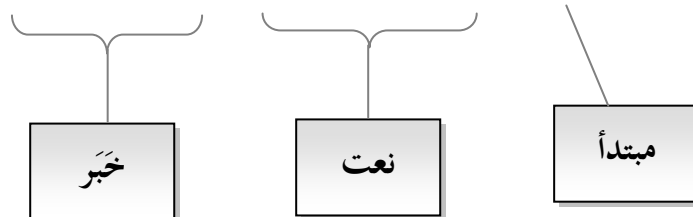
And this أَحَدٌ is the *mubtada'*, and the sentence ﴿إِلَّا لِيُؤْمِنَنَّ بِهِ﴾ is the *khobar*:

So the *taqdīr* is:

«وَمَا (وَإِنْ) أَحَدٌ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ إِلَّا لِيُؤْمِنَنَّ بِهِ...»

Every one from the People of the Book will believe in him (Prophet ʿĪsā عليه السلام) before his death.

«وَمَا (وَإِنْ) أَحَدٌ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ إِلَّا لِيُؤْمِنَنَّ بِهِ...»



2) The phrase ﴿مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ﴾ is the *khbar muqaddam*, and the *mubtada'* is أَحَدٌ which is *muqaddar* :

«وَمَا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ (أَحَدٌ) ...»

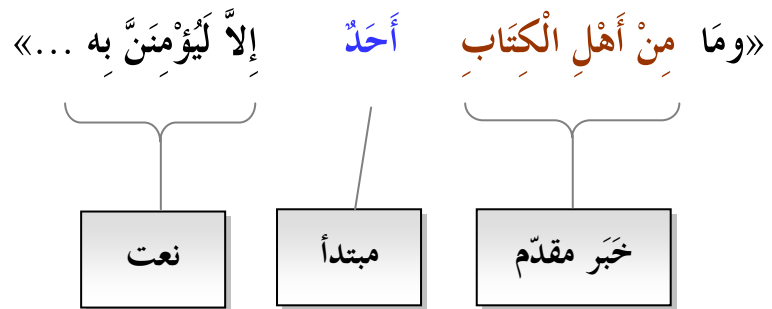
and the sentence ﴿إِلَّا لِيُؤْمِنَنَّ بِهِ﴾ is the *na't* of أَحَدٌ.

So the *taqdīr* is:

«وَمَا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ أَحَدٌ إِلَّا لِيُؤْمِنَنَّ بِهِ ...»

And the meaning is:

There is none from the People of the Book but will believe in him before his death.



Hope this has helped you to understand the *āyah*.

والسلام,

abdur rahim