The Sermon of Iblis to the Disbelievers on The Day of Judgement

Taken from Tafseer ibn Katheer (Surah Ibraheem 14:22) By al-Haafidh ibn Katheer

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يسرالله الرحمن الرديين

"And Shaitân (Satan) will say when the matter has been decided: "Verily, Allâh promised you a promise of truth. And I too promised you, but I betrayed you. I had no authority over you except that I called you, so you responded to me. So blame me not, but blame yourselves. I cannot help you, nor can you help me. I deny your former act in associating me (Satan) as a partner with Allâh (by obeying me in the life of the world). Verily, there is a painful torment for the Zâlimûn (polytheists and wrong-doers, etc.)." (Ibrahim 14:22)

Ibn Katheer explained,

"Allah narrates to us what Iblis will say to his followers after Allah finishes with the judgement between His servants, sending the believers to the gardens of Paradise and the disbelievers to the lows (of the Fire). Iblis, may Allah curse him, will stand and address the latter, in order to add depression to their depression, sorrow to their sorrow and grief to their grief. He will declare,

(Verily, Allah promised you a promise of truth.) Meaning: by the words of His Messengers that if you follow them, you will gain safety and deliverance. Truly, Allah's promise was true and correct news, while I promised you then betrayed you.'

Allah said in another Ayah,

(He (Shaytan) makes promises to them, and arouses in them false desires; and Shaytan's promises are nothing but deceptions.) [4:120]

(I had no authority over you) Shaytan will say, `I had no proof for what I called you to, nor evidence for what I promised you

(except that I called you, and you responded to me.) Meaning: even though the Messengers establish the proof and unequivocal evidences against you and affirmed the truth of what they were sent to you with. But you disobeyed the Messengers and ended up earning this fate,

(So blame me not,) today (but blame yourselves.), because it is your fault for defying the proofs and following me in the falsehood that I called you to.' Shaytan will say next, (I cannot help you), I cannot benefit, save, or deliver you from what you are suffering, (nor can you help me.), nor can you save me and deliver me from the torment and punishment I am suffering, (I deny your former act of associating me (Shaytan) as a partner with Allah.) or because you associated me with Allah before,' according to Qatadah. Ibn Jarir commented; "I deny being a partner with Allah, the Exalted and Most Honored."

This opinion is the most plausible, for Allah said in other Ayat,

(And who is more astray than one who calls on others besides Allah, such as will not answer him till the Day of Resurrection, and who are (even) unaware of their calls to them And when mankind are gathered, they will become their enemies and will deny their worshipping.)[46:5-6]

and,

(Nay, but they (the so-called gods) will deny their worship of them, and become opponents to them.)[19:82]

Allah said next,

(Verily, the wrongdoers), Meaning: who deviate from truth and follow falsehood, will earn a painful torment. It appears that this part of the Ayah narrates the speech that Shaytan will deliver to the people of the Fire after they enter it, as we stated. `Amir Ash-Sha`bi said, "On the Day of Resurrection, two speakers will address the people.

Allah the Exalted will say to `Isa, son of Maryam,

(Did you say unto men: "Worship me and my mother as two gods besides Allah") [5:116]

until,

(Allah will say: "This is a Day on which the truthful will profit from their truth.")[5:119]

Shaytan, may Allah curse him, will stand and address the people,

(I had no authority over you except that I called you, and you responded to me.)

Allah next mentioned the final destination of the miserable ones, who earned the disgrace and torment and having to listen to Shaytan address them, then He mentioned the final destination of the happy ones."