

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Class 36 – No one Knows the Unseen Except Allaah

By Shaykh Ahmed al-Wasaabee

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The shaykh began with the Khutbatul Haajah.

The Shaykh mentioned that this chapter is also linked with the previous chapters on sorcery, and those who have connection with sorcery, such as the astrologers, the soothsayers, and the fortune-tellers. And this chapter is linked with the previous chapters due to the fact that the sorcerers are the ones who claim to have knowledge of the unseen. So ash-Shaykh Muhammad ibn ‘Abdul-Wahhaab (hafidhahullaah) has written this chapter as a refutation against them, and a refutation against their false speech, and a refutation against their allegation of possessing knowledge of the unseen. And ash-Shaykh Ahmed (hafidhahullaah) mentioned that those who claim to have knowledge of the unseen, then they have committed shirk with Allaah (subhaana wa ta’aalaa), as knowledge of the unseen is an attribute of Allaah (subhaana wa ta’aalaa) alone, and it is specific to Him. So it is upon the Muslims to be aware of these types of people and these groups, those who claim to have knowledge of the unseen, so that they do not get captured in their nets of misguidance. And it is also upon them to stay away from committing shirk by attributing this attribute of knowledge of the unseen only to Allaah (tabaaraka wa ta’aalaa).

And Allaah (subhaana wa ta’aalaa) said:

لَا تُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّ الشِّرْكَ لَظُلْمٌ عَظِيمٌ

Join not in worship others with Allaah. Verily! Joining others in worship with Allaah is a great Zulm (wrong) indeed. (Luqmaan 31:13)

And His statement:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَغْفِرُ أَنْ يُشْرَكَ بِهِ وَيَغْفِرُ مَا دُونَ ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ

Verily! Allaah forgives not (the sin of) setting up partners in worship with Him, but He forgives whom he pleases sins other than that. (An-Nisaa’ 4:116)

NO ONE KNOWS THE UNSEEN EXCEPT ALLAAH (LAA YA’LAM AL-GHAYB ILLA-ALLAAH)

TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT IN AL-QAWL-UL-MUFEEH ADILLATIT TAWHEED:

Allaah (ta'aalaa) said:

قَالَ أَلَمْ أَقُلْ لَّكُمْ إِنِّي أَعْلَمُ غَيْبَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَأَعْلَمُ مَا تُبْدُونَ وَمَا كُنْتُمْ تَكْتُمُونَ

He said: "Did I not tell you that I know the Ghayb (unseen) in the heavens and the earth, and I know what you reveal and what you have been concealing?" (Al-Baqarah 2:33)

And Allaah (ta'aalaa) said:

وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيُطْلِعَكُمْ عَلَى الْغَيْبِ

Nor will Allaah disclose to you the secrets of the Ghayb (unseen). (Aali Imraan 3:179)

And Allaah (ta'aalaa) said:

وَإِذْ قَالَ اللَّهُ يَا عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ أَأَنْتَ قُلْتَ لِلنَّاسِ اتَّخِذُونِي وَأُمِّي إِلهَيْنِ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ قَالَ سُبْحَانَكَ مَا يَكُونُ لِي أَنْ أَقُولَ مَا لَيْسَ لِي بِحَقٍّ إِنْ كُنْتُ قُلْتُهُ فَقَدْ عَلِمْتَهُ تَعْلَمُ مَا فِي نَفْسِي وَلَا أَعْلَمُ مَا فِي نَفْسِكَ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ عَلَّامُ الْغُيُوبِ

And (remember) when Allaah will say (on the Day of Resurrection): "O 'Eesa (Jesus), son of Maryam (Mary)! Did you say unto men: 'Worship me and my mother as two gods besides Allaah?' " He will say: "Glory be to You! It was not for me to say what I had no right (to say). Had I said such a thing, You would surely have known it. You know what is in my innerself though I do not know what is in Yours, truly, You, only You, are the All-Knower of all that is hidden and unseen. (Al-Maa'idah 5:116)

And Allaah (ta'aalaa) said:

قُلْ لَا أَقُولُ لَكُمْ عِنْدِي خَزَائِنُ اللَّهِ وَلَا أَعْلَمُ الْغَيْبَ وَلَا أَقُولُ لَكُمْ إِنِّي مَلَكٌ إِنْ أَتَّبَعُ إِلَّا مَا يُوْحَىٰ إِلَيَّ قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الْأَعْمَىٰ وَالْبَصِيرُ أَفَلَا تَتَفَكَّرُونَ

Say (O Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم)): "I don't tell you that with me are the treasures of Allaah, nor (that) I know the unseen; nor do I tell you that I am an angel. I but follow what is revealed to me by inspiration." Say: "Are the blind and the one who sees equal? Will you not then take thought?" (Al-An'aam 6:50)

And Allaah (ta'aalaa) said:

وَعِنْدَهُ مَفَاتِحُ الْغَيْبِ لَا يَعْلَمُهَا إِلَّا هُوَ

And with Him are the keys of the Ghayb (all that is hidden), none knows them but He. (Al-An'aam 6:59)

And Allaah (ta'aalaa) said:

قُلْ لَا أَمْلِكُ لِنَفْسِي نَفْعًا وَلَا ضَرًّا إِلَّا مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ وَلَوْ كُنْتُ أَعْلَمُ الْغَيْبَ لَاسْتَكْثَرْتُ مِنَ الْخَيْرِ وَمَا مَسَّنِيَ السُّوءُ إِنْ أَنَا إِلَّا نَذِيرٌ وَبَشِيرٌ لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ

Say (O Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم)): "I possess no power of benefit or hurt to myself except as Allaah wills. If I had the knowledge of the Ghayb (unseen), I should have secured for myself an abundance of wealth, and no evil should have touched me. I am but a warner, and a bringer of glad tidings unto people who believe." (Al-A'raaf 7:188)

And He (ta'aalaa) said:

فَقُلْ إِنَّمَا الْغَيْبُ لِلَّهِ

Say: "The unseen belongs to Allaah Alone." (Yoonus 10:20)

And Nooh ('alayhis salaam) said:

وَلَا أَقُولُ لَكُمْ عِنْدِي خَزَائِنُ اللَّهِ وَلَا أَعْلَمُ الْغَيْبَ وَلَا أَقُولُ إِنِّي مَلَكٌ

"And I do not say to you that with me are the Treasures of Allaah, "Nor that I know the Ghayb (unseen); "nor do I say I am an angel." (Hood 11:31)

And Allaah (ta'aalaa) said:

وَلِلَّهِ غَيْبُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَإِلَيْهِ يُرْجَعُ الْأَمْرُ كُلُّهُ فَاعْبُدْهُ وَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَيْهِ وَمَا رَبُّكَ بِغَافِلٍ عَمَّا تَعْمَلُونَ

And to Allaah belongs the Ghayb (unseen) of the heavens and the earth, and to Him return all affairs (for decision). So worship Him (O Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم)) and put your trust in Him. And your Lord is not unaware of what you (people) do." (Hood 11:123)

And He (jalla jallaalah wa 'adham sultaanah) said:

قُلِ اللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا لَبِثُوا لَهُ غَيْبُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ

Say: "Allaah knows best how long they stayed. With Him is (the knowledge of) the unseen of the heavens and the earth." (Al-Kahf 18:26)

And He (jalla wa 'Alaa) said:

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا يُصِفُونَ

Glorified be Allaah above all that they attribute to Him! (Al-Mu'minoon 23:91)

عَالِمِ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ فَتَعَالَى عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ

All-Knower of the unseen and the seen! Exalted be He over all that they associate as partners to Him! (Al-Mu'minoon 23:92)

And Allaah (ta'aalaa) said:

قُلْ لَا يَعْلَمُ مَنْ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ الْغَيْبَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَمَا يَشْعُرُونَ أَيَّانَ يُبْعَثُونَ

Say: "None in the heavens and the earth knows the Ghayb (unseen) except Allaah, nor can they perceive when they shall be resurrected." (An-Naml 27:65)

And Allaah (ta'aalaa) said:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ عِلْمُ السَّاعَةِ وَيُنَزِّلُ الْغَيْثَ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا فِي الْأَرْحَامِ وَمَا تَدْرِي نَفْسٌ مَّاذَا تَكْسِبُ غَدًا وَمَا تَدْرِي نَفْسٌ بِأَيِّ أَرْضٍ تَمُوتُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ

Verily, Allaah! With Him (Alone) is the knowledge of the Hour, He sends down the rain, and knows that which is in the wombs. No person knows what he will earn tomorrow, and no person knows in what land he will die. Verily, Allaah is All-Knower, All-Aware (of things). (Luqmaan 31:34)

And He (ta'aalaa) said:

ذَلِكَ عَالِمُ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ الْعَزِيزُ الرَّحِيمُ

That is He, the All-Knower of the unseen and the seen, the All-Mighty, the Most Merciful. (As-Sajdah 32:6)

And Allaah (ta'aalaa) said:

عَالِمِ الْغَيْبِ لَا يَعْزُبُ عَنْهُ مِثْقَالُ ذَرَّةٍ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَلَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا أَصْغَرُ مِنْ ذَلِكَ وَلَا أَكْبَرُ إِلَّا فِي
كِتَابٍ مُبِينٍ

(Allaah, He is) the All-Knower of the unseen, not even the weight of an atom (or a small ant) or less than that or greater, escapes from His Knowledge in the heavens or in the earth, but it is in a Clear Book. (Saba' 34:3)

And Allaah (ta'aalaa) said:

فَلَمَّا قَضَيْنَا عَلَيْهِ الْمَوْتَ مَا دَلَّهُمْ عَلَى مَوْتِهِ إِلَّا دَابَّةُ الْأَرْضِ تَأْكُلُ مِنْسَأَتَهُ فَلَمَّا خَرَّ تَبَيَّنَتِ الْجِنَّ أَنْ لَوْ
كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ الْغَيْبَ مَا لَبِثُوا فِي الْعَذَابِ الْمُهِينِ

Then when We decreed death for him [Sulaymaan (Solomon)], nothing informed them (jinns) of his death except a little worm of the earth, which kept (slowly) gnawing away at his stick, so when he fell down, the jinns saw clearly that if they had known the unseen, they would not have stayed in the humiliating torment. (Saba' 34:14)

And Allaah (ta'aalaa) said:

قُلْ إِنْ رَبِّي يَقْذِفُ بِالْحَقِّ عَلَآمُ الْغُيُوبِ

Say (O Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم)): "Verily! My Lord sends down Inspiration and makes apparent the truth (i.e. this Revelation that had come to me), the All-Knower of the Ghayb (unseen). (Saba' 34:48)

And Allaah (ta'aalaa) said:

قُلِ اللَّهُمَّ فَاطِرَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ عَالِمِ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ أَنْتَ تَحْكُمُ بَيْنَ عِبَادِكَ فِي مَا كَانُوا فِيهِ
يَخْتَلِفُونَ

Say (O Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم)): "O Allaah! Creator of the heavens and the earth! All-Knower of the Ghayb (unseen) and the seen. You will judge between your slaves about that wherein they used to differ." (Az-Zumar 39:46)

And He (tabaaraka wa ta'aalaa) said:

هُوَ اللَّهُ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ عَالِمُ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ هُوَ الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ

He is Allaah, than Whom there is Laa ilaaha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He) the All-Knower of the unseen and the seen (open). He is the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful. (Al-Hashr 59:22)

And Allaah (ta'aalaa) said:

عَالِمُ الْغَيْبِ فَلَا يُظْهِرُ عَلَى غَيْبِهِ أَحَدًا

"(He Alone) the All-Knower of the Ghayb (unseen), and He reveals to none His Ghayb (unseen)." (Al-Jinn 72:26)

إِلَّا مَنِ ارْتَضَىٰ مِنْ رَسُولٍ فَإِنَّهُ يَسْلُكُ مِنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِ رَصَدًا

Except to a Messenger (from mankind) whom He has chosen (He informs him of unseen as much as He likes), and then He makes a band of watching guards (angels) to march before him and behind him. (Al-Jinn 72:27)

لِيَعْلَمَ أَنَّ قَدْ أَفْلَحُوا رِسَالَاتِ رَبِّهِمْ وَأَحَاطَ بِمَا لَدَيْهِمْ وَأَخْصَىٰ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ عَدَدًا

[He (Allaah) protects them (the Messengers)], till He sees that they (the Messengers) have conveyed the Messages of their Lord (Allaah). And He (Allaah) surrounds all that which is with them, and He (Allaah) keeps count of all things (i.e. He knows the exact number of everything). (Al-Jinn 72:28)

EXPLANATION OF THE TEXT BY SHAYKH AHMED AL-WASAABEE (HAFIDHAHULLAAH):

The shaykh said that this chapter does not need much explanation due to the abundance of clear proofs mentioned in it. Explaining the first verse (2:33), the shaykh mentioned that this verse is in the context of Allaah (subhaana wa ta'aalaa) teaching Aadam ('alayhis salaam) the names of all things, and then asking the Angels to inform Him of these names, and the Angels were not able to inform Allaah (subhaana wa ta'aalaa) of these names, so then Allaah ('azza wa jall) said what has been mentioned in this verse (2:33). And then Shaykh Ahmed mentioned that this is the generosity from Allaah (subhaana wa ta'aalaa) to Aadam that He taught Aadam ('alayhis salaam) the names of these various things. And also regarding the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم), the things that he was informed about from the knowledge of the unseen, and future events, and the prophecies, then this knowledge comes from Allaah (subhaana wa ta'aalaa), and He has informed him about them.

And all the verses in this chapter establish the fact that Allaah (subhaana wa ta'aalaa) is the One who solely and exclusively possesses the attribute of the knowledge of the unseen. And the likes of those from amongst the astronomers, and the sorcerers, and the soothsayers, and their claim that they have knowledge of the unseen along with Allaah, then they are liars in their claim of this, as has been mentioned clearly in these verses.

TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT IN AL-QAWL-UL-MUFEEED FEE ADILLATIT TAWHEED:

And the proofs from the Sunnah are many, amongst them:

1. From ‘Abdullaah ibn ‘Umar (radiyAllaahu ‘anhumaa) who said: the Messenger of Allaah (ﷺ) said: ((‘The keys of the unseen knowledge [*mafaatihul-ghayb*] are five, which nobody knows but Allaah: Nobody knows what will happen tomorrow but Allaah, and Nobody knows what is in the womb but Allaah, and Nobody knows what he will earn or gain tomorrow, and Nobody knows at what place he will die but Allaah, and Nobody knows when it will rain but Allaah, and Nobody knows when the Hour will be established but Allaah)). Reported by: al-Bukhaaree, no. 992, 4351, 4420, 4500, and 6944, and Ahmed: 2/52.
2. From Abee Hurayrah (radiyAllaahu ‘anhu) who said: the Messenger of Allaah (ﷺ) said: ((Five things, no one knows them except Allaah)). Then he recited the Aayah¹. Narrated by al-Bukhaaree, no. 50 and Muslim, no. 9 and 10.
3. From Buraydah (radiyAllaahu ‘anhu) who said: “I heard the Messenger of Allaah (ﷺ) say: ((Five things, no one knows them except Allaah)). Then he mentioned the Aayah¹.” Narrated by Ahmed: 5/353 and other than him with an authentic chain, and made Hasan by ash-Shaykh Muqbil in al-Jaami’ as-Saheeh 6/361 and authenticated by al-Albaanee in Saheeh al-Jaami’, no. 3255.
4. From ‘Aa’ishah (radiyAllaahu ‘anhaa) who said: the Messenger of Allaah (ﷺ) said: ((Nobody knows what will happen tomorrow except Allaah)). Narrated by al-Haakim 2/184 and 185 and it is authentic upon the conditions of Muslim, and this is mentioned by adh-Dhahabee. See Aadaab az-Zufaaf, page 182, and made Hasan by Ibn Hajar in al-Fath 9/203. al-Albaanee mentioned the *takbreej* of at-Tabaraanee in as-Sagheer and al-Aswat, and al-Bayhaquee: 7/289.
5. From ar-Rubayya’ bint Mu’awwidh ibn ‘Afraa’ (radiyAllaahu ‘anhaa) who said: “After the consummation of my marriage, the Prophet (ﷺ) came and sat on my bed as far from me as you are sitting now, and our little girls started beating the tambourines (*daff*) and reciting elegiac verses mourning my father who had been killed in the battle of Badr. One of them said, “Among us is a Prophet who knows what will happen tomorrow.” On that the Prophet said, ((Leave this (saying), and keep on saying the verses which you had been saying before)).” Narrated by al-Bukhaaree, no. 3779, 4852.

Benefit (faa’idah):

al-Haafidh [Ibn Hajar al-Asqalaanee] said in al-Fath [al-Baaree Sharh Saheeh al-Bukhaaree]: 9/203: ((... knowledge of the unseen (*‘ilm-ul-ghayb*) ... then it is an attribute that is

¹ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ عِلْمُ السَّاعَةِ وَيُنَزِّلُ الْغَيْثَ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا فِي الْأَرْحَامِ وَمَا تَدْرِي نَفْسٌ مَّاذَا تَكْسِبُ غَدًا وَمَا تَدْرِي نَفْسٌ بِأَيِّ أَرْضٍ تَمُوتُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ

Verily, Allaah! With Him (Alone) is the knowledge of the Hour, He sends down the rain, and knows that which is in the wombs. No person knows what he will earn tomorrow, and no person knows in what land he will die. Verily, Allaah is All-Knower, All-Aware (of things). (Luqmaan 31:34)

specific to Allaah (ta'aalaa) ... and all of that which the Prophet used to inform about from the unseen, then it is by the knowledge and teaching of Allaah (ta'aalaa), and the Prophet is not independent with knowledge of these things)).

I say: From these noble verses and the honourable Prophetic ahadeeth the falsehood of the Soothsayers, Fortune-tellers and the Astrologers is clarified for the intelligent reader. And examples are people such of Mahdee Ameen² and the people of al-Wusoof and al-Mujabbah and Quwayr³, and other than them from the Soothsayers, and verily no one knows the unseen except Allaah alone, having no partners.

EXPLANATION OF THE TEXT BY SHAYKH AHMED AL-WASAABEE (HAFIDHAHULLAAH):

The shaykh mentioned that the Prophet (ﷺ) was taught from the unseen, and was ordered by Allaah (subhaana wa ta'aalaa) to teach the people, and this does not mean that the Prophet (ﷺ) had knowledge of the unseen. Rather, whatever the Prophet (ﷺ) knew from the unseen, then it is from the revelation of Allaah (subhaana wa ta'aalaa) and His teaching of the Prophet (ﷺ).

Explaining the hadeeth of Ibn 'Umar (radiyAllaahu 'anhumaa), Shaykh Ahmed mentioned that no one knows what he is going to earn tomorrow, and no one knows what is in the wombs, in the womb of his wife, or the womb of his sister, or his relatives. And no one knows in what place he will die, except Allaah ('azza wa jall).

² Mahdee Ameen is a soothsayer from the soothsayers of Yemen, and he lives in the city of Baytil-Faqeeh.

³ The people of al-Wusoof and al-Mujabbah and Quwayr, all three are known for containing woman soothsayers, and they live in these three cities.