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2301 Plymouth Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105. Ph: (734) 665-6772

The Major Signs of The Final Hour (The Day of Judgement)

Allah (Subhanahu wa Ta'ala) said: "They ask thee about the Hour, 'When will be its appointed time? Wherein art thou (concerned) with the declaration thereof? With thy Lord is the Limit fixed therefore. Thou art but a Warner for such as fear it. The Day they will see it, (it will be) as if they had tarried but a single evening, or (at most till) the following morning!' (Al-Nazi'at 79: 42-46)

"They ask thee about the (final) Hour - when will be its appointed time? Say: 'The knowledge thereof is with my Lord (alone): none but He can reveal as to when it will occur. Heavy were its burden through the heavens and the earth. Only, all of a sudden will it come to you.' They ask thee as if thou wert eager in search thereof: say: 'The knowledge thereof is with Allah (alone), but most men know not.'" (Al-A'raf 7:187)

Allah said: "The Hour (of Judgment) has come near, and the moon is cleft asunder." (Al-Qamar 54:1)

The Prophet (sallallahu alayhe wa sallam) said, whilst pointing with his index and middle fingers, "The time of my advent and the Hour are like these two fingers." In another report he said, "The Hour almost came before me." This indicates how close we are, relatively speaking, to the Hour. Allah said: "Closer and closer to mankind comes their Reckoning: yet they heed not and they turn away." (Al-Anbiya' 21:1) Also "(Inevitable) cometh (to pass) the Command of Allah: seek, ye not then to hasten it." (Al-Nahl 16:1) "Only those wish to hasten it who believe not in it: those who believe hold it in awe, and know that it is the Truth." (Al-Shura 42:18)

In Sahih al-Bukhari, there is a Hadith which states that a Bedouin asked the Prophet about the Hour. He said, "It will surely come to pass. What have you prepared for it?" The man said, "O Messenger of Allah, I have not prepared much in the way of prayer and good works, but I love Allah and His Messenger." The Prophet said, "You will be with those you love." The Muslims had never rejoiced as much they did when they heard this Hadith.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE FITAN (TRIBULATIONS)

Hudhayfah ibn al-Yaman said, "People used to ask the Prophet (sallallahu alayhe wa sallam) about good things, but I used to ask him about bad things because I was afraid that they might overtake me. I said, 'O Messenger of Allah, we were lost in ignorance (Jahiliyyah) and evil, then Allah brought this good (i.e. Islam). Will some evil come after this good thing?' He said, 'Yes' I asked, 'And will some good come after that evil?' He said, 'Yes, but it will be tainted with some evil' I asked, 'How will it be tainted?' He said, 'There will be some people who will lead others on a path different from mine. You will see good and bad in them. I asked, 'Will some evil come after that good?' He said, 'Some people will be standing and calling at the gates of Hell; whoever responds to their call, they will throw him into the Fire.' I said, 'O Messenger of Allah, describe them for us.' He said, 'They will be from our own people, and will speak our language.' I asked, 'What do you advise me to do if I should live to see that?' He said, 'Stick to the main body (jama'ah) of the Muslims and their leader (Imam).

'Abd Allah ibn Mas'ud said: "The Prophet said, 'Islam began as something strange,

and it will revert to being strange as it was in the beginning, so good tidings for the strangers.' Someone asked, 'Who are the strangers?' He said, 'The ones who break away from their people (literally, 'tribes') for the sake of Islam.' "This Hadith was narrated by Ibn Majah on the authority of Anas and Abu Hurairah.

DIVISIONS WITHIN THE MAIN RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Abu Hurairah reported that the Prophet (sallallahu alayhe wa sallam) said: "The Jews have split into seventy-one sects, and my Ummah will divide into seventy-three." 'Awf ibn Malik reported that the Prophet said: "The Jews split into seventy-one sects: one will enter Paradise and seventy will enter Hell. The Christians split into seventy-two sects: seventy-one will enter Hell and one will enter Paradise. By Him in Whose hand is my soul, my Ummah will split into seventy-three sects: one will enter Paradise and seventy-two will enter Hell." Someone asked, "O Messenger of Allah, who will they be?" He replied, "The main body of the Muslims (al-Jama'ah). ("The main body of the Muslims (al-Jama'ah) means the people of the Qur'an, and the Sunnah, who have agreed to follow the Traditions of the Prophet as understood by the early generation of Islam in all circumstances without introducing any changes or imposing their own confused ideas)" 'Awf ibn Malik is the only one who reported this Hadith, and its isnad is acceptable.

'Abd Allah said, "The Prophet said, 'Just before the Hour, there will be days in which knowledge will disappear and ignorance will appear, and there will be much killing.' "

Hudhayfah ibn al-Yaman said, "The Prophet said, 'Islam will become worn out like clothes are, until there will be no-one who knows what fasting, prayer, charity and rituals are. The Qur'an will disappear in one night, and no Ayah will be left on earth. Some groups of old people will be left who will say, 'We heard our fathers saying La ilaha illa Allah, so we repeated it.' Silah asked Hudhayfah, "What will saying La ilaha illa Allah do for them when they do not know what prayer, fasting, ritual and charity are?" Hudhayfah ignored him; then Silah repeated his question three times, and each time Hudayfah ignored him. Finally he answered, "O Silah, it will save them from Hell", and said it three times. (Ibn Majah)

This indicates that in the last days, knowledge will be taken from the people, and even the Qur'an will disappear from the Mushafs and from people's hearts. People will be left without knowledge. Only the old people will tell them that they used to hear people saying La ilaha illa Allah; and they will repeat it to feel close to Allah, so it will give them some blessing, even if they do not have any good deeds or beneficial knowledge. Knowledge will be taken away from men and ignorance will increase during the last days, and their ignorance and misguidance will increase until the end, as in the Hadith of the Prophet: "The Hour will not come upon anyone who says, 'Allah, Allah'; it will only come upon the most evil of men."

THE EVILS WHICH WILL BEFALL ON THE MUSLIM UMMAH DURING THE LAST DAYS.

'Abd Allah ibn 'Umar said, "The Prophet (sallallahu alayhe wa sallam) came to us and said, 'O Muhajirun, (emigrants from Makkah to al-Madinah) you may be afflicted by five things; God forbid that you should live to see them. If fornication should become widespread, you should realize that this has never happened without new diseases befalling the people which their forebears never suffered. If people should begin to cheat in weighing out goods, you should realize that this has never happened without drought and famine befalling the people, and their rulers oppressing them. If people should withhold Zakat, you should realize that this has never happened without the rain being

stopped from falling; and were it not for the animals' sake, it would never rain again. If people should break their covenant with Allah and His Messenger, you should realize that this has never happened without Allah sending an enemy against them to take some of their possessions by force. If the leaders do not govern according to the Book of Allah, you should realize that this has never happened without Allah making them into groups and making them fight one another." (Ibn Majah).

Imran ibn Husayn said, "The Prophet said, 'Some people of this Ummah will be swallowed up by the earth, some will be transformed into animals, and some will be bombarded with stones.' One of the Muslims asked, 'When will that be, O Messenger of Allah?' He said, 'When singers and musical instruments will become popular, and much alcohol will be drunk.'" (Narrated by Tirmidhi)

MINOR SIGNS LEADING TO THE DAY OF JUDGMENT

The appearance of the minor portents of the Hour, of which there are many which will not appear in any specific order. These include: the sending of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) and his death; the plague of 'Amwaas; the appearance of tribulations; the loss of honesty; the disappearance of knowledge; the spread of dealing in interest, musical instruments and alcohol; regarding these things as permissible; competition in erecting tall buildings; a great deal of killing; time passing more quickly; adornment of the mosques; prevalence of shirk; the spread of immorality; a great deal of stinginess; many earthquakes; landslides, transformations and pelting with stones from the heavens; disappearance of righteous people; believers' dreams coming true; neglect of the Sunnah; a great deal of lying; a great deal of false testimony; a great deal of sudden death; a great deal of rain but little growth of vegetation; wishing for death

MAJOR SIGNS LEADING TO THE DAY OF JUDGMENT

1. AL-MAHDI will appear just before the time of the Dajjal. He will call to the true Islam, and will be a military leader. THE Mahdi will come at the end of time; he is one of the Rightly-Guided Caliphs and

Imams. Ali said, The Prophet said, The Mahdi is one of us, from among the people of my household. In one night Allah will inspire him and prepare him to carry out his task successfully. (Ahmad and Ibn Majah.)

2. DAJJAAL (THE ANTI-CHRIST) will come claiming to be god holding mighty miracles that Allaah will create with him, which will dazzle people's minds and amaze them. He will have rivers of water and mountains of bread. The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: 'The Dajjal will be one-eyed, blind in his left eye, and will have thick hair. He will have a paradise and a hell with him, but his paradise will be a hell and his hell will be a paradise.'

The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: 'I know what the Dajjal will bring with him: he will have two rivers flowing. One will clearly look like water and the other will clearly look like blazing fire. If any one of you sees that, let him choose the river which looks like fire, then let him close his eyes and lower his head and drink from it, for it will be cool water.'

In the hadeeth of al-Nawwaas ibn Sam'aan about the Dajjal, it is reported that the Sahaabah said: "O Messenger of Allaah, how long will he stay on the earth?" He said, "Forty days: one day like a year, one day like a month, one day like a week, and the rest of the days like your days." ... They said, "How fast will he travel through the earth?" He said, "Like the clouds when they are driven by the wind. He will come to some people and call them, and they will believe in him and respond to him. Then he will command the sky to rain, and the earth to bring forth vegetation, and their cattle will come back to them in the evening, with their humps very high, and their udders full of milk, and their flanks stretched. Then he will come to another people and will call them, but they will reject him. So he will leave them and they will be stricken with famine, with none of their wealth in their hands. He will pass by ruins and will say, 'Bring forth your treasure!' – and the treasure will follow him like a swarm of bees. Abu Sa'eed al-Khudri (may Allaah be pleased with him) that this man whom the Dajjal will kill will be one of the best people, who will go out to the Dajjal from

the city of the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him), and will say to the Dajjaal, "I bear witness that you are the Dajjaal of whom the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) told us." The Dajjaal will say (to the people): "What do you think – if I kill this man then bring him back to life, will you have any doubts?" They will say, "No." So he will kill him, then bring him back to life. Then he (the believing man) will say, "By Allaah, I have never been more sure about you than I am today." The Dajjaal will want to kill him but will not be permitted to.

According to the hadeeth of Umaamah al-Baahili (may Allaah be pleased with him), the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said of the Dajjaal: "Part of his fitnah will be that he will say to a Bedouin, Do you think that if I resurrect your father and mother for you that you will testify that I am your lord? He will say, 'Yes.' So two devils will appear to him in the image of his father and mother, saying, 'O my son, follow him for he is your lord.'"

Protection against the fitnah of the Dajjaal The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) has taught his ummah about that which will protect them against the fitnah of the false messiah (al-maseeh al-dajjaal). He left his ummah on a path that is clear, and no one deviates from it except the one who is doomed. He did not leave any good thing without pointing it out to his ummah, or any evil thing without warning them against it. Among the things which he warned us against was the fitnah of the Dajjaal, because it is the greatest fitnah which the ummah will face until the Hour comes.

Adhering to Islam, having the right faith and learning the Names and Most Beautiful Attributes of Allaah which are not shared by anyone else. One should know that the Dajjaal will be a human being who will eat and drink, and that Allaah is far above that; the Dajjaal will be one-eyed but Allaah is not one-eyed; no one can see his Lord until he dies, but the Dajjaal will be seen by all people, believers and kaafirs alike, when he emerges.

Seeking refuge with Allaah from the fitnah of the Dajjaal, especially in salaah (prayer).

Memorizing aayaat from Soorat al-Kahf. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) commanded us to recite the opening verses of Soorat al-Kahf against the Dajjaal. According to some reports, the final verses of this soorah was mentioned. This means reciting the first ten verses or the last ten. Al-Nawawi said: "The reason for this is because at the beginning of (this soorah), mention is made of wonders and signs, and whoever ponders them will not be deceived by the fitnah of the Dajjaal. And at the end of this soorah, Allaah says (interpretation of the meaning): 'Do then those who disbelieve think that they can take My slaves as awliyaa' (lords etc.) besides Me?' [al-Kahf 18:102]." Every Muslim should strive to read this soorah, and to memorize it and read it repeatedly, especially on the best day on which the sun rises, namely Friday.

Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: "Whoever hears of the Dajjaal, let him keep far away from him, for a man will come to him and think that he is telling the truth because of the wonders that are sent with him."

Imaam Ahmad narrated that Jaabir ibn 'Abd-Allaah (may Allaah be pleased with him) said: "The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: 'The Dajjaal will emerge at a time when religious commitment is low and knowledge has decreased... Then 'Eesa ibn Maryam will descend just before dawn and will call people, saying, 'O people, what is stopping you from coming out against this evil liar?' They will say, 'This man is a jinn', then they will set out. When they reach 'Eesa ibn Maryam, the time for prayer will come the iqamah will be given, and it will be said to him, 'Go forward (to lead the prayer), O Spirit of Allaah.' He will say, 'Let your imaam go forward and lead you in prayer.' When they have prayed fajr, they will go out to meet him (the Dajjaal) and when they see the liar, he will start to dissolve like salt in water. 'Eesa will go to him and kill him.

3. EESA (Jesus) (*Alayhis salaam*), will descend at the time of Fajr Salaat on a Masjid in Damascus, Syria. He will not come as a Prophet but a follower of

Prophet Muhammad (SAW). He will call people back to Islam, but he will also be a military leader. The people of the book will revert to Islam, and wealth will be super-abundant. He will break the cross, kill the swine, and slay the Dajjaal. He will stay on Earth for a long time thereafter, and then die. He will be buried next to Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

4. JAJOOJ AND MAJOOJ (two hidden tribes of people) will break free of the dam that holds them back, and ravage the earth. They will drink all the water, and kill people until Allah sends against them a worm which will wipe them out.

5. SMOKE will appear all over the earth which will cause believers to catch something similar to a slight cold, whereas the unbelievers will be hit harder by it. Finally, a cold wind will come and kill all believers, leaving only unbelievers on the earth who will then witness the LAST HOUR.

The Quran will be taken up into heaven. A fire will drive the people to their last gathering place.

The angel Israfil will blow a trumpet, and the resurrection of all human beings will begin. At this point, the Day of Resurrection commences in which the skies and earth are destroyed by Allah, the Mighty.

SOME OTHER SIGNS OF THE FINAL HOUR:

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE KA'BAH

'Abd Allah ibn 'Amr said, "I heard the Prophet (sallallahu alayhe wa sallam) say, Dhu'l-Suwayqatayn from Abyssinia will destroy the Ka'bah and steal its treasure and Kiswah. It is as if I could see him now: he is bald-headed and has a distortion in his wrists. He will strike the Ka'bah with his spade and pick-axe.'" (Ahmad)

THE RISING OF THE SUN FROM THE WEST

ALLAH SWT says: "Are they waiting to see if the angels come to them, or thy Lord (Himself), or certain of the Signs of thy Lord? The day that certain the signs of thy Lord do come, no good will it do to a soul to

believe in them then, if it believed not before nor earned righteousness through its faith. Say: 'Wait ye: we too are waiting'" (al-Anam 6:158.) It was reported from Abu Sa'id al-Khudri that the Prophet (sallallahu alayhe wa sallam) explained, "The day that certain of the Signs of thy Lord do come, no good will it do to a soul to believe in them then", referring to the rising of the sun from the West.

Abu Hurairah said, "The Prophet (sallallahu alayhe wa sallam) said, 'The Hour will not come until the sun rises from the West. When the people see it, whoever is living on earth will believe, but that will be the time when - No good will it do to a soul to believe in them then, if it believed not before'" (Bukhari.)

Abu Hurairah said: "The Prophet (sallallahu alayhe wa sallam) said, 'Hasten to do good deeds before six things happen: the rising of the sun from the West, the smoke, the Dajjal, the Beast, the (death) of one of you or general tribulation.'" (Muslim.)

THE EMERGENCE OF THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH .

AMONG the signs of the Hour will be the emergence of a beast from the earth. It will be very strange in appearance, and extremely huge; one cannot even imagine what it will look like. It will emerge from the earth and shake the dust from its head. It will have with it the ring of Solomon and the rod of Moses. People will be terrified of it and will try to run away, but they will not be able to escape, because such will be the decree of Allah. It will destroy the nose of every unbeliever with the rod, and write the word "Kafir" on his forehead; it will adorn the face of every believer and write the word "Mu'min" (true believer) on his forehead, and it will speak to people. Allah SWT said: "And when the Word is fulfilled against them (the unjust), We shall produce from the earth a Beast to (face) them: it will speak to them," (al-Naml 27:82) Ibn 'Abbas, al-Hasan and Qutadah said that "It will speak to them" (tukallimuhum) means that it will address them. Ibn Jarir suggested that it means that the Beast will address them with the words "for that mankind did not believe with assurance in Our Signs" (al-Naml 27:82 - latter part of the Ayah). Ibn Jarir reported this from 'Ali and 'Ata' It was reported from Ibn 'Abbas

that tukallimuhum means that the Beast will cut them, i e, it will write the word "Kafir" on the forehead of the unbeliever. It was also reported from Ibn 'Abbas that he will both address them and cut them; this suggestion incorporates both of the previous suggestions; and Allah knows best.

Baridah said: "The Prophet (sallallahu alayhe wa sallam) took me to a place in the desert, near Makkah. It was a dry piece of land surrounded by sand. The Prophet (sallallahu alayhe wa sallam) said, 'The Beast will emerge from this place. It was a very small area.'" (Ibn Majah.) It was reported from Abu Hurairah that the Prophet (sallallahu alayhe wa sallam) said, "The Beast of the Earth will emerge, and will have with it the rod of Moses and the ring of Solomon." It was also reported that he said, "(The Beast) will destroy the noses of the unbelievers with the ring, - so that people seated around one table will begin to address one another with the words "O Believer!" or "O Unbeliever!" (i e, everyone's status will become clear). (Ibn Majah.)

THE HOUR WILL NOT COME UNTIL:

It was reported from Abu Sa'id al-Khudri that the Prophet (sallallahu alayhe wa sallam) said, "Thunderbolts will increase so much as the Hour approaches that when a man comes to a people, he will ask, 'Who amongst you was struck by a thunderbolt this morning?' and they will say, 'So-and-so and so-and-so was struck.'" (Ahmad)

HEAVEY RAIN BEFORE THE DAY OF RESURRECTION

It was reported from Abu Hurairah that the Prophet (sallallahu alayhe wa sallam) said, "The hour will not come until there has been rain which will destroy all dwellings except tents." It was from Abu Hurairah that one day, while the Prophet (sallallahu alayhe wa sallam) was sitting with the people, a Bedouin came to him and asked him about Iman and Islam ' then he asked, "O Messenger of Allah, when will the Hour be?" He said, "The one who is asked about it does not know more than the one who asks, but I tell you about its signs. When a slave gives birth to her mistress, and when the bare-footed and naked become the chiefs of the people - these are among the

signs of the Hour. There are five things which no-one knows except Allah."

Then he recited: "Verily the knowledge of the Hour is with God (alone). It is He Who sends down rain, and He Who knows what is in the wombs. Nor does anyone know what it is that he will earn on the morrow: nor does anyone know in what land he is to die. Verily God is All-Knowing, All Aware." (Luqman 31:34).

'Abd Allah ibn Mas'ud narrated from the Prophet (sallallahu alayhe wa sallam): 'Before the Hour comes, there will be a special greeting for the people of distinction; trade will become so widespread that a woman will help her husband in business; family ties will be cut; the giving of false witness will be common, while truthful witness will be rare; and writing will be widespread.'" (Ahmad.)

DESCRIPTION OF THE PEOPLE WHO WILL BE ALIVE AT THE END OF TIME

It was reported from 'Abd Allah ibn 'Amr that the Prophet (sallallahu alayhe wa sallam) said, "The Hour will not come until Allah takes away the best people on earth; only the worst people will be left; they will not know any good or forbid any evil." (Ahmad.) It was reported from Anas that the Prophet (sallallahu alayhe wa sallam) said, "The Hour will not come until no-one on earth says 'La ilaha illa Allah'." (Ahmad.) It was also reported from Anas that the Prophet (sallallahu alayhe wa sallam) said: "The Hour will not come until no-one on earth says, 'Allah, Allah.'" (Ahmad.)

'Alba'al-Salami said, "I heard the Prophet (sallallahu alayhe wa sallam) say: 'The Hour will only come upon the worst of the people.'" (Ahmad.)

Editorial

Assalamu Alakium

Dear Readers!

Thank you very much for your comments & questions.

**UNIS, 2301 Plymouth Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105**