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Contents

SOME EARLY EVENTS

SOME OF THE EVENTS THAT THE PROPHET ﷺ SAID WOULD OCCUR AFTER HIS LIFETIME.....	22
The Prophet ﷺ intimated that after him Abu Bakr ؓ would take charge over the Muslim Nation.....	22
The Prophet ﷺ Intimated To Us That The Muslims Would Conquer Egypt	22
The Prophet ﷺ Foretold The End Of The Persian And Roman Empires.....	23
The Messenger of Allah ﷺ Prophesized 'Umar's Murder	23
The Prophet ﷺ Foretold The Trials That 'Uthmaan ؓ Was To Undergo.....	24
The Prophet ﷺ Foretold 'Ammar Ibn Yaasir's Killing	24
The Prophet ﷺ Specified That The Period Of The Caliphate Was To Last For Thirty Years After His Death And Then The Era Of Kingdoms Would Begin	25
The Prophet ﷺ Gave Tidings Of Al-Hasan ؓ Making Peace Between Two Huge Groups Of Muslims.....	25
The Messenger Of Allah ﷺ Informed Umm Haraam Bint Milhaan ؓ That She Would Die In A Naval War	25
The Prophet ﷺ Indicated That The Muslim Army Would Reach India And Sindh.....	26
The Prophet ﷺ Said That The Muslims Would Fight The Turks....	27
The Prophet ﷺ Intimated That Some Children Would Take Positions Of Authority Over The Muslims,	28
The Prophet ﷺ Informed Us Of Twelve <i>Khaleefahs</i> From The Quraish Who Rule Over The Muslim Nation	29
The <i>Khaleefahs</i> Of The Quraish Referred To In The Hadeeth	30

Narrations Mentioning Signs Related To The Year 200.....	30
The Best Generation Is the Generation of the Messenger ﷺ, Then Those Who Came Next, Then Those Who Came Next,	31
The Messenger ﷺ Did Not Specify When This World Will Come To An End And It Is Not Authentically Related	31
The Narration That Speaks About A Fire In The Land Of Hijaz Which Will Illuminate Camels in Busrah, in the Land of Sham.....	32
The Appearance Of A Fire In Madeenah That Continued.....	32

ABOUT THE HOUR

Narrations From The Prophet ﷺ That Speak About The Unseen Future.....	32
The Prophet ﷺ Gave News About Events From The Past And The Future,.....	33
There Is No Basis For Israelite Narrations That Specify How Long The World Will Remain.....	34
The Nearness Of The Hour.....	35
On The Day Of Resurrection, The Muslim Will Be Resurrected With Those Whom He Loves.....	36
Whoever Dies, Then His Hour Has Arrived.....	36
The Keys To The Unseen Are Five: None Knows Them Save Allah ﷻ.....	36
The Messenger Of Allah ﷺ Did Not Know The Time Of The Hour.....	37

THE TRIALS, EVENTS, SIGNS

THE TRIALS IN GENERAL.....	38
The Prophet ﷺ Informed Us About The Rotation Of Good And Evil.....	38
Islam Will Return Strange And New As It Had Begun	38
Division Within The Nations.....	38
This Nation Will Not Gather Upon Misguidance.....	39
Permission To Withdraw From People When Trials Become Severe And When Desires Become Deeply Ingrained.....	40

It Is Forbidden To Hope For Death	40
Knowledge Will Be Raised With The Death Of The Scholars.....	41
The Prophet ﷺ Intimated To Us That A Group From This Nation Will Remain Upon The Truth Until The Day Of Judgment.....	41
A Narration Which Indicates That Every 100 Years, Allah ﷻ Will Send For This Nation He (Or Those) Who Will Revive The Affairs Of The Religion	41
Some Of The Signs Of The Hour That The Prophet ﷺ Mentioned .	42
Knowledge Will Be Raised (Or Taken Away) From People At The End Of Time.....	42
EVILS THAT WILL OCCUR AT THE END OF TIMES, OF WHICH SOME ARE TAKING PLACE IN OUR AGE	44
The Prophet ﷺ Spoke Of Evils That Were To Occur After His Time	44
The Poor Will Enter Paradise Before The Rich.....	47
THE MAHDEE.....	50
Who Will Come At The End Of Times; He Is One Of The Rightly-Guided <i>Khaleefahs</i> And <i>Imams</i>	50
DIFFERENT TRIALS THAT HAVE OCCURRED AND THAT WILL INCREASE IN INTENSITY AT THE END OF TIMES	56
If there are many wrongdoers, all will be destroyed, even if there are righteous people among them	56
Trials That Will Occur Among Muslims.....	56
Every Era That Comes Is Better Than The One That Follows It	57
Trials That Muslims Should Try To Stay Far Away From	57
The Raising Of Trustworthiness From The Hearts	57
The Prophet ﷺ Informed Us That The Trial Will Appear From The East.....	58
Trials Will Increase Until The Living Will Envy The Dead	58
The Prophet ﷺ Informed Us That, Before The Coming Of The Hour,.....	58
Huge Quantity Of Wealth That Will Be Revealed In Arab Lands, And The Discord And Death That Will Result	58
The Many Dajjals That Appear Before The Hour, And The Hour	

Will Arrive At A Time When People Will Be Heedless Of It	59
Two Categories Of People That Will Inhabit The Hellfire, And We Seek Refuge In Allah, The Lord Of All That Exists	61
Excuses For Not Ordering Others To Good And Forbidding Them From Evil	61
People Will Leave The Religion In Throngs.....	62
DESTRUCTIVE TRIALS	63
News From The Messenger ﷺ Of Destructive Trials That Will Make The One Who Adheres To His Religion Like One Who Is Grasping Embers	63
News From The Prophet ﷺ Of The Nations Gathering Against The Muslims, Seeking To Weaken Them, Even Though The Muslims Will Be Large In Numbers	63
The Messenger ﷺ Intimated That A Destructive Fitnah Will Occur And Safety From It Achieved By Staying Far Away From It And From Ways That Lead To It.....	63
Tribulations Have A Harmful Effect On One's Character, Whereby A Man Will Not Even Be Safe From The Companion He Sits With	64
Different Kinds Of Trials Mentioned By The Prophet ﷺ; The Way To Escape From Them Is To Withdraw From Society	65
The Messenger Of Allah ﷺ Advised That One Should Bear Hardships During Tribulations And That One Should Keep Away From Participating In Evil.....	66
The Messenger Of Allah ﷺ Informed Us That Some Muslims Will Return To Idol-Worship.....	67
The <i>Fitnah</i> Of The Saddlebag	68
A Trial In Which The Impact Of The Tongue Is More Harsh Than The Impact Of The Sword	69
The Prophet ﷺ Intimated That The Muslims Would Conquer Constantinople Before Rome.....	71
Some News, The Source Of Which Is Imputed To The Messenger Of Allah ﷺ, About Destruction In Certain Countries;.....	71
Many Signs And Aayaat.....	72
Signs Indicating The Proximity Of The Hour	73
The Prophet ﷺ Ordered Muslims To Hasten To Do Good Deeds	

Before The Occurrence Of Six Matters	74
Ten Signs Before The Coming Of The Hour	74
The Fire That Will Come Out From The Floor (Or Depth) Of 'Adan.....	75
The Fierce battle That Will Take Place With The Romans, Which Will End With The Conquering Of Constantinople.....	75

ABOUT DAJJAAL

The Hour Will Not Arrive Until The Maseeh ('Eesa Ibn Maryam) ﷺ Kills The Dajjaal -	77
<i>Laailaha Illallah Wallahuakbar</i> (None Has The Right To Be Worshipped But Allah And Allah Is The Greatest)	78
The Conquering Of Some Islands And Of The Lands Of Rome And Persia;.....	79
When The Hour Arrives, The Romans Will Be Greatest In Numbers	79
An Indication That Al-Madeenah Al-Munawwarah Will Be Faced With Weakness When Jerusalem Will Be Inhabited.....	81
Al-Madeenah Al-Munawwarah Is Protected From Plague And From The Dajjaal Entering It.....	81
The Prophet ﷺ Pointed Out That Al-Madeenah Al-Munawwarah Will Become Developed.....	82
Before The Hour There Will Be Liars Claiming Prophethood For Themselves.....	83
About Callers To The Hellfire	84

MORE AHADEETH ABOUT THE DAJJAAL

Some Narrations Concerning Ibn Sayyaad	86
The Messenger of Allah's Warning About The Dajjaal, And Some Of The Dajjaal's Attributes.....	87
The Fire Of The Dajjaal Is Paradise And His Paradise Is Fire.....	88
The Messenger ﷺ Warned His Nation Not To Be Deceived By What The Dajjaal Has With Him In Terms Of Apparent Strength..	88
Ibn Sayyaad Is Not The Greater Dajjaal	89
Faatimah Bint Qais's <i>Hadeeth</i> About The Dajjaal; And What	

Tameem Ad-Daaree ❖ Related In Regards To Him Seeing.....	89
Ibn Sayyaad Is From The Jews Of Al-Madeenah	95
The <i>Hadeeth</i> Of An-Nawaas Ibn Sam'aan Al-Kilaabee	99
Sayings Ascribed To The Messenger Of Allah ﷺ About Strange And Wonderful Matters	105
Various <i>Ahaadeeth</i> About The Dajjaal.....	106
Why Was Not The Dajjaal Explicitly Mentioned In The Noble Qur'an?.....	128
How To Protect Oneself From The Dajjaal	131

'EESA IBN MARYAM

The Messenger of Allah 'Eesa Ibn Maryam ﷺ Will Descend From The Heaven Of The Earth To The Earth At The End Of Time	142
Some Extraordinary Occurrences Before The Arrival Of The Hour.	145
Before The Coming Of The Hour, Worship Will Decrease And Wealth Will Increase	145
The Prophets Are Brothers And Children Of The Same Father	147
The Prophet ﷺ Is The Most Entitled Of People To 'Eesa Ibn Maryam ﷺ.....	148
A Description Of Al-Maseeh 'Eesa Ibn Maryam, The Messenger Of Allah ﷺ.....	149
Yajooj And Majooj (Gog And Magog)	152
The Destruction Of The Ka'bah.....	159
The Dajjaal Will Enter Neither Makkah Nor Al-Madeenah.....	162
The Beast Will Come Out And Speak To The People.....	163
Ten Signs Before The Hour	163
The Sun Rising From The West.....	167
The Smoke That Will Occur Before The Day Of Resurrection	174
There Will Be Much Fainting Just Before The Hour (Or Many People Will Be Struck By Lightning).....	177
Severe Rainfall That Will Occur Before The Day Of Resurrection...	178
Signs Which, If They Have Not Yet Occurred, Will Occur Before The Hour	178

THE RESURRECTION DAY

The Different Chains For The <i>Hadeeth</i> : "I Have Been Sent And The Hour Like These Two"	189
The <i>Hadeeth</i> -When Compared To The Time That Has Passed, The Day Of Resurrection Is Indeed Near	190
Some Verses About The Resurrection Day	194
The End Of This World And The Coming Of The Hereafter.....	211
The Different Times That The Horn Is Blown, And Nothing Remains From A Human Being Except For ' <i>Ajbudh-Dhanab</i> (The Lowest Bone On The Spinal Cord)	227
The Mention Of The Fire And How It Will Gather The People To Ash-Sham.....	232
Regarding The <i>Hadeeth</i> Of The Horn	238
<i>Ahaadeeth</i> About The Resurrection.....	250
The Day Of Resurrection Is The Day That The Trumpet Will Be Blown, For The Resurrection Of Bodies From Their Graves, And That Will Be On A Friday.....	255
The Moment When The Hour Will Arrive	256
The Bodies Of The Prophets Do Not Decompose In The Earth	257
On The Day Of Resurrection, The First For Whom The Earth Will Split Open Is The Messenger Of Allah ﷺ.....	258
The Mention Of The One Who Will Be The First To Be Dressed At That Time.....	261
Man Will Be Raised By The Garment Of His Deeds - Whether They Are Good Or Bad	266
Some Of What Has Been Mentioned In The Qur'an About Terrifying Events On The Day Of Resurrection	267
The Terrifying, Great Events That Will Take Place On The Day Of Resurrection	294
Some Of Those Who Will Be In The Shade Of Allah On The Day (Of Resurrection).....	296
Some Of What The Haughty Ones Will Be Rewarded With On The Day Of Resurrection	301
The Lengthy Period Of The Day Of Resurrection	307

Some Of The Punishments That Have Been Prepared For Those Who Do Not Pay The <i>Zakaat</i> That Is Due Upon Them.....	310
For Sinners, The Day Of Resurrection Is Long And Difficult; For The People Of <i>Taqwaa</i> (Piety, Righteousness, Etc.).....	312
THE STATION OF PRAISE AND GLORY	314
Among The Rest Of The Prophets, Is Specific To The Messenger Of Allah ﷺ; Part Of That Is The Greater Intercession For The People Of The <i>Mawqif</i> ,.....	314
On The Day Of Resurrection, The Messenger ﷺ Will Be The Chief Of The Children Of Adam ﷺ	315
The Messenger ﷺ Is The Imam Of The Prophets On The Day Of Resurrection	315
Asking From People Causes The Flesh Of The Questioner's Face To Fall Off On The Day Of Resurrection.....	323

THE HAUD (BASIN)

Narrations Related About The <i>Haud</i> (Basin) Of Muhammad ﷺ – May Allah Give Us Drink From It On The Day Of Resurrection....	325
Just Some Of The Eminent Companions Who Believed In The <i>Haud</i>	325
<i>Al-Kauthar</i> Is A River In Paradise, Which The Messenger of Allah ﷺ was Given.....	327
On The Day Of Resurrection, The Messenger ﷺ Will Want His Nation To Outnumber (Other Nations);.....	332
The Hellfire Is The Reward Of Those Who Intentionally Lie Upon The Messenger Of Allah ﷺ.....	334
On The Day Of Resurrection, Every Prophet Has A <i>Haud</i> (Basin); They Will Be Vying With One Another -.....	335
"Whoever Turns Away From The <i>Sunnah</i> Of The Messenger ﷺ, The Angels Will Strike His Face, (Driving Him) "	341
The Messenger ﷺ Feared For His Nation That They Would Compete Over This World.....	341
The First To Come And Drink From The <i>Haud</i> On The Day Of Resurrection Is He Who Gave Drink To The Thirsty One In The World	342
"Whoever Drinks From The <i>Haud</i> That People Will Go To Will Be	

Prevented From Thirst, "	342
Whoever Disbelieves In The <i>Haud</i> Will Not Be Given Drink From It... ..	343
Among The Prophets ﷺ, The Messenger ﷺ Will Have The Most Followers On The Day Of Resurrection	344
Between The Grave Of The Messenger ﷺ And His <i>Minbar</i> (Pulpit) Is A Garden From The Gardens Of Paradise	345
For Every Prophet ﷺ There Is A <i>Haud</i> (Basin), But The <i>Haud</i> Of Our Prophet ﷺ Is The Greatest Of Them,	349
The <i>Auliyaa</i> Of Allah (Islamic Monotheists Who Love, Fear, And Hope From Allah, Doing Good Deeds,	349
The <i>Haud</i> That People Will Come To Is Before The Extended <i>Siraat</i> ;.....	350
The Specifications Of The Length And Width Of The <i>Haud</i> Differ According To Who The Messenger of Allah ﷺ Was Addressing; He Mentioned For Each Person Places That He Knew	352
Allah ﷻ Will Come On The Day Of Resurrection To Rule Between His Slaves	353
The Speech Of The Lord ﷻ With The Messengers On The Day Of Resurrection	359
Allah's Speech With Adam ﷺ On The Day Of Resurrection.....	362
Allah's Speech With Noah ﷺ And Allah's Questioning Of Him Regarding Whether He Conveyed "	364
Bestowal Of Honor Upon Ibraaheem ﷺ Before All Who Are Present On The Day Of Resurrection.....	365
'Eesa ﷺ And Allah's Speech With Him On The Day Of Resurrection	367
The Station Of The Messenger of Allah ﷺ With Allah On The Day Of Resurrection – No Other Station Comes Near To It In Status.....	369
Allah's Speech With The Scholars During The Passing Of Judgment	371
The First Saying Of Allah ﷻ To The Believers.....	371
No Share In The Hereafter Will He Have Who Betrays The Trust And Covenant Of Allah ﷻ.....	372
The Presentation Of The Fires And The Gardens, And The Irrection Of The <i>Meezaan</i> (Scale), And The Accountability With	

Allah ﷻ..... 376
 At The Place Of Gathering, An Eye From The Hellfire Will Be Shown, And It Will Look Over The People 378

THE MENTION OF THE BALANCE (SCALE)

A Neck From The Fire Will Come Out And Speak; The Haughty Ones, The *Mushrikeen* 378
 THE MENTION OF THE BALANCE (SCALE)..... 381
 The Weighing Of Deeds After The Judgment And The Reckoning. 382
 The Balance Has Two Scales That Have A Physical Reality; And "*Bismillahir-Rahmaanir-Raheem* 383
 On The Day Of Resurrection, The Testimony Of "None Has The Right To Be Worshipped But Allah 384
 A Good Character Is The Heaviest Thing That Will Be Placed In The Balance Of The Slave On The Day Of Resurrection 384
 The Sayings Of The Scholars Regarding The *Tafseer* Of The Balance That Will Exist On The Day Of Resurrection..... 391
 On The Day Of Resurrection, The Balance Is Not For Every Single Individual 393

TAKING OF ACCOUNT

When Deeds Will Be Presented Before Allah ﷻ, When The Scrolls Will Be Scattered, And When The Lord ﷻ Calls His Slaves To The Accountability 397
 Whoever's Taking Of Account Is Discussed, Is Destroyed..... 402
 The First Matter That Will Be Judged Upon On The Day Of Resurrection Will Be Blood (i.e. The Shedding Of Blood) 411
 The First Nation To Have Their Account Taken On The Day Of Resurrection Is The Nation Of Muhammad ﷺ 411
 The Mention Of The First Matter That Allah ﷻ Will Rule Upon Between People On The Day Of Resurrection;..... 412
 Whoever Wrongs Another By Wrongfully Taking A Piece Of Land Will Be Enveloped By It From Seven Earths On The Day Of Resurrection 414
 The Punishment Of The Picture-Takers And The Ones Who Make

Three-Dimensional Statues On The Day Of Resurrection..... 414
On The Day Of Resurrection, The Two Feet Of The Slave Will Remain On The Land Of The *Mahshar* 415
On The Day Of Resurrection, The First Matter That One Will Be Held Accountable For Is The Prayer:..... 421
Retribution Exacted From The Wrongdoers On the Day Of Resurrection 424
***Ash-Shirk Billah* (Associating Partners With Allah) Is Not Forgiven, And Wrong Done Among The Slaves..... 425**
Dying In the Way Of Allah Expiates All Things Except For The Trust..... 426
On The Day Of Resurrection, The Slave Will Be Asked About The Delights (He Indulged In, In This World) 428
It Is Mentioned That Allah Will Make Certain Of His Slaves To Be Reconciled To One Another..... 429
A Mention Of Those Who Will Enter Paradise From This Nation Without Any Reckoning (i.e., Without Facing The Taking Of Accounts)..... 442
How The People Will Be Separated From The Place Where They Were Gathered For Accountability; Then One Group Is For Paradise And One Group Is For The Hellfire 450
The Last Of The People Of Paradise To Enter It 456

A MENTION OF THE SIRAAT (PATH OVER THE HELLFIRE)

From Other Than What Has Been Mentioned In The Previously Mentioned *Ahaadeeth* 463
 Some Attributes Of The People Of Paradise And Some Of The Delights That Have Been Prepared For Them..... 485
 Some Of What Has Been Related Regarding The Age Of The Inhabitants Of Paradise 485
 The Severe Torment Inside Of It: May Allah Protect Us From It By His Mercy; Indeed He Is Most Munificent, Most Generous..... 489
 A Mention Of The Hellfire And Its Extreme Blackness – May Allah Protect Us From It..... 514
 The Hellfire – And We Seek Refuge In Allah ﷻ – Is 70 Times More Fierce Than The Fire Of This World..... 515

The Hellfire Was Ignited For 3000 Years Until It Became Black And Dark..... 517

The Heat Of The Hellfire Never Goes Out And One Does Not Warm Oneself By Its Flame 517

The Hellfire Complained To Its Lord That It Was Eating Itself 520

The Severe Heat Of Hell Is Hotter Than All Else 520

When The Richest And Most Comfortable Of People In The World From The Dwellers Of The Hellfire Is Dipped Into It,..... 521

If A Disbeliever Had Enough Gold To Fill The Earth And Then Tried To Ransom Himself From The Punishment On The Day Of Resurrection,..... 522

On The Day Of Resurrection, The Believer Will Hope To Return To The World In Order To Fight In The Way Of Allah..... 523

A Description Of The Hellfire And The Hugeness Of Its Inhabitants - 524

The Depth Of Hell Is The Distance It Takes For A Thrown Rock To Fall For Seventy Years..... 526

The Hugeness Of Their Bodies In The Hellfire - May Allah ﷻ Protect Us From Their Situation..... 527

The Ugliness Of The Disbeliever And The Hugeness OF His Body In The Fire Of Hell On The Day Of Resurrection..... 528

A Mention Of The Sea Burning In Hell And Being A Part Of Hell. 530

The Gates Of Hell And A Description Of Its Keepers And Its Guards - May Allah ﷻ Protect Us From It..... 531

A Description Of The *Siraat* (Path Over Hell) And The Disparity Of Speed With Which The People Cross Over It..... 532

The Food And Drink Of The People Of Hell..... 542

Those *Ahaadeeth* Which Mention Its Names: Which Of Them Are Authentic And Which Of Them Are Otherwise?..... 545

A Prison In Hell That Is Called Boolus - May Allah 'Azza Wa-Jall (To Him Belongs Might And Majesty) Protect Us From It 547

The Well Of Grief 547

A River In Hell Which Is Like The Filth, Waste, And Putrid Material In The World - We Ask Allah ﷻ To Protect Us From It By His Grace And Favor 548

The Valley Of Lamlam 548

A Valley With A Well In Hell; The Valley Is Called Habhab..... 548

The Mention Of *Wail* And *Sa'ood*..... 549

Its Snakes And Its Lizards - May Allah Protect Us From It And From Them 550

A Sermon Containing An Admonition, Which Should Encourage And At The Same Time Instill Fear In One Who Has A Heart Or One Who Listens Attentively 552

The Mercy Of Allah Is Near To Him Who Sincerely Seeks Refuge With Allah From The Heat Of The Hellfire And From Its Bitter Cold..... 553

The Lowest Levels Of Hell - We Seek Refuge In Allah From Its Punishment 554

Some Of The Snakes In Hell - And We Seek Refuge In Allah ﷻ.. 555

The Crying Of The People Of The Hellfire When They Are In The Hellfire - We Ask Allah 'Azza Wa-Jall 555

Various *Ahaadeeth* Pertaining To The Description Of Hell And Its Inhabitants 557

THE INTERCESSION OF THE MESSENGER OF ALLAH ﷺ

The Greater Intercession 565

What Honors And Tasks The Messenger Of Allah ﷺ Is Singled Out With From Among All Of The Prophets..... 566

Another Kind Of Intercession Is One For Whom Intercession Is Made So That He Enters Paradise Without Any Accountability;.... 570

Knowledge Of The Intercession Was Lost To The *Khawaarij* And The *Mo'tazilah*, And So They Denied It;..... 572

The Chains And Wordings Of *Ahaadeeth* Related About The Intercession Of The Believers For Their Families..... 572

The People Of *Al-'Araaf*..... 607

A Mention Of The First One To Come Out Of The Hellfire And Then Enter Paradise 608

THE RIVERS OF PARADISE, ITS TREES, AND ITS FRUITS

A Description Of The People Of Paradise And Of The Bliss That

Is Found In Paradise; 619

The Names Of The Gates Of Paradise..... 623

The Key To Paradise Is The Testimony Of "None Has The Right To Be Worshipped But Allah 623

The Mention Of Different Places In Paradise As Well As Of Their Elevation And Vastness..... 624

Few Deeds In The Way Of Allah Are Better Than The World And That Which Is In It,..... 626

Al-Firdaus Is The Highest Level In Paradise; Prayer And Fasting Necessitate The Forgiveness Of Allah 'Azza Wa-Jall..... 628

The Levels Of Paradise Differ, And None Knows The Degree Of Those Differences Except For Allah, 629

A Mention Of What The Dweller Of Paradise With The Lowest Ranking Will Receive 629

A Mention Of The Rooms Of Paradise, Their Elevation, Vastness, And Hugeness;..... 632

The Abodes In Paradise Of Those Who Love One Another For Allah ﷻ..... 633

A Mention Of The Highest Station In Paradise; It Is The *Al-Waseelah* Therein – The Station Of The Messenger Of Allah ﷺ..... 633

The Structures Of The Castles Of Paradise: What Are They Made Of? 635

The Mention Of Pavilions In Paradise..... 640

Mention Of The Soil In Paradise 641

THE RIVERS OF PARADISE, ITS TREES, AND ITS FRUITS..... 643

A Description Of *Al-Kauthar*, The Most Famous Of The Rivers Of Paradise. May Allah ﷻ Give Us Drink From It, By His Grace And Generosity..... 645

A Mention Of The *Al-Baidakh* River In Paradise..... 647

A Shining *River* At The Gate Of Paradise..... 648

The Trees Of Paradise 650

The Fruits Of Paradise; We Ask Allah ﷻ To Make Us Taste From Them, By His Grace And Generosity – *Ameen* 657

The Food And Drink Of The Inhabitants Of Paradise; We Ask Allah By His Grace To Bestow All Of That Upon Us..... 662

Some Of The People Of Paradise Will Want To Farm. Then Allah Will Answer Them Their Wish..... 666

A Mention Of The First Food That The Inhabitants Of Paradise Will Eat..... 667

The Clothing Of The Dwellers Of Paradise; Their Adornments, Garments, And Beauty – We Ask Allah ﷻ From All Of That..... 672

A Description Of The Couches For The Dwellers Of Paradise..... 676

Adornment Of *Al-Hoor* (Beautiful Women In Paradise) *Al'Een* (Who Have Beautiful, Wide Eyes) 678

Sexual Intercourse Of The People Of Paradise With Their Women, And They Shall Not Have Children Except If One Of Them Desires So 688

What Has Been Said About The Granting Of Children To The People Of Paradise..... 690

THE DWELLERS OF PARADISE

Their Lives Are Complete And Perfect, For They Do Not Die, And They Continue To Increase In The Strength Of Their Youth, The Freshness Of Their Faces, The Beauty Of Their Forms, 692

The Good Pleasure Of Allah: That Is Over And Above What They Have With Them 694

A Mention Of The Lord ﷻ Looking At Them And A Mention Of Them Looking At Him – How Perfect He Is!..... 695

A Mention Of The Dwellers Of Paradise Looking At Their Lord 'Azza Wa-Jall 696

The Ground Of Paradise As Well As The Goodness And Spreading Of Its Good Fragrance 706

The Light And Splendor Of Paradise, And Its Beautiful Scenery In The Morning And In The Evening..... 710

Allah ﷻ Encouraged His Slaves To Seek Out Paradise And To Hasten Towards It 712

Whoever Seeks Protection With Allah From The Hellfire, Then He Will Protect Him,..... 714

Paradise And The Hellfire Seek Out And Are Granted Intercession 714

Paradise Is Surrounded By Difficulties, i.e., Difficult Deeds, In

Terms Of Performing Good Deeds While Abstaining.....	715
The Dwellers Of Paradise Will Visit One Another; They Will Gather And Reminisce About Their Affairs In The World,.....	723
A Comprehensive Chapter Regarding Rulings Pertaining To Paradise And To Various <i>Ahaadeeth</i>	730
The Grace And Generosity Of Allah 'Azza Wa-Jall (To Him belongs Might and Majesty).....	732
Paradise And The Hellfire Exist	732
Some Attributes Of The People Of Paradise And Some Attributes Of The People Of The Hellfire.....	735
The Poor Ones From This nation Will Enter Paradise 500 Years Before The Rich Ones From It.....	737
The First Three To Enter Paradise And The First Three To Enter The Hellfire	737
The People Of The nation Of Muhammad ﷺ Constitute The Greatest Number Of Dwellers In Paradise And They Are The Highest In Ranking And Degree	740
The People Of The First Generation, The Companions Of The Messenger of Allah ﷺ, Are The Best Of This Nation	740
Some Narrations Which Mention That A Large Number Of People From This nation Will Enter Paradise Without Reckoning..	741
Paradise And The Hellfire Exist Now; They Have Already Been Created, A View That Is Contrary To What The People Of Falsehood Purport.....	742
A Woman Might Have Been Married To More Than One Man During Her Lifetime; In Paradise.....	749

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*In The Name Of Allah, The Most Beneficent,
The Most Merciful.*

○ Allah, send prayers and salutations on Muhammad, his family, and his Companions. This is the *Book of The End : Great Trials and Tribulations*. It deals with what the Prophet ﷺ informed us about regarding the signs of the Hour and the great events that are to take place before the Day of Judgment, all of which we must have faith in, because the Prophet ﷺ spoke not from desire, but from revelation.

Abu Moosa Al-Ash'aree related that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "This nation of mine is one upon which there is mercy; there is no punishment upon it in the Hereafter; its punishment is in this world – with trials, earthquakes, and killings."

Hitherto in our discussion on the unseen past,^[1] we covered in detail events that pertain to the beginning of the world, the stories of the prophets, and the history of peoples until our era. Then we discussed the biography of the Prophet ﷺ, mentioning his characteristics and the proofs of his prophethood. Then we covered some events that the Prophet ﷺ prophesized about and that have already taken place before our century. When we gave an account of events that took place after the Prophet's death, we pointed out those occurrences about which a *Hadeeth* gave information. Since we already mentioned those prophesies that have already become realized and since it would be too long to repeat them all here, we will suffice by mentioning only a few examples, after which we will return to the main theme of this work. And we seek help from Allah ﷻ.

^[1] This book is a continuation of Ibn Katheer's history book, *Al-Bidaayah Wan-Nihaayah*; whereas the previous volumes are concerned with past events, this one is chiefly concerned with events that are yet to take place.

SOME OF THE EVENTS THAT THE PROPHET ﷺ SAID WOULD OCCUR AFTER HIS LIFETIME

The Prophet ﷺ intimated that after him Abu Bakr ؓ would take charge over the Muslim Nation

Once, after the Prophet ﷺ spoke to a female questioner, he told her to come back at a later time. She said, "And if I do not find you," as if she was alluding to his death. He ﷺ said, "If you do not find me, then go to Abu Bakr ؓ." (*Bukhaaree*) And in fact Abu Bakr ؓ did assume the duty of leadership after the Prophet ﷺ. The Prophet ﷺ wanted to write a declaration, making it clear that Abu Bakr ؓ was to be the next *Khaleefah*. However, he refrained from writing it because he knew that his Companions ؓ, being pleased with Abu Bakr's superiority and merit, would choose no one else. The Prophet ﷺ said, "Allah and the believers refuse to have anyone other than Abu Bakr ؓ." (*Muslim*)

In another narration, the Prophet ﷺ said, "And with those two who come after me, Abu Bakr and 'Umar." (*Ahmad, Ibn Maajah, At-Tirmidhee, who ruled it to be authentic*). These words were proven to be true, for Abu Bakr ؓ became *Khaleefah* after the Prophet ﷺ and he was then followed by 'Umar ؓ.

The Prophet ﷺ Intimated To Us That The Muslims Would Conquer Egypt

Ibn Ka'ab related from his father ؓ that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "When you conquer Egypt, then treat its inhabitants in a good manner." (*Maalik*) And in another narration, "Treat its inhabitants in a good manner, for they have the right of security and they are kinsfolk (Hagar, the mother of Ismaa'eel, was from them)." 'Amr ibn Al-'Aas ؓ led the Muslim army that conquered Egypt in the year 20 H, during the caliphate of 'Umar ibn Al-Khattaab ؓ. And Abu Dhar ؓ related that the Prophet ﷺ said, "Indeed you will conquer a land in which *Al-Qeeraat* is mentioned (*Al-Qeeraat* is a portion of a dinar, dirham, and other currencies; the people of

Egypt, who used *Al-Qeeraat* in their transactions, would speak about it often). Treat its inhabitants well, for they have the right of security and they are kinsfolk." (*Muslim*)

The Prophet ﷺ Foretold The End Of The Persian And Roman Empires

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "When Caesar is destroyed, there will be no Caesar after him, and when Kisra (a title designated to the emperor of Persia) is destroyed, there will be no Kisra after him. And by the One Who has my soul in His Hand, you will spend their treasures in the way of Allah." (*Bukhaaree and Muslim*)

This prophecy was fulfilled, for during the caliphates of Abu Bakr ؓ, 'Umar ؓ, and 'Uthmaan ؓ, Caesar (the name of this particular Caesar was Haraq) lost control of countries in Sham (Syria and surrounding regions) and the Arabian Peninsula. His dominion was then limited to the countries of Rome. In Arabic, the application of the word Qaisar (Caesar) was for he who ruled over Rome, Sham, and the Arabian Peninsula. Therefore this *Hadeeth* contained glad tidings for the inhabitants of Sham; it promised them that, until the Day of Judgment, they would never again be under the rule of Rome. As for Kisra, he lost his entire control of most of his dominion during the caliphate of 'Umar ؓ, and then he lost everything during the caliphate of 'Uthmaan ؓ. According to one narration, this occurred in the year 32 H - all praise is for Allah ﷻ and all blessings are from Him. When the Prophet ﷺ sent a letter to Kisra, inviting him to Islam, the latter tore it up. The Prophet ﷺ supplicated against him, invoking Allah ﷻ to completely tear apart his empire, and that is in fact what happened.

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ Prophesized 'Umar's Murder

Shafeeq Ibn Salamah reported that Hudhaifah ؓ said, "As we were seated in the company of 'Umar ؓ, he said, 'Who among you has memorized the *Hadeeth* of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ regarding the *Fitnah* (tribulation)?' I said, 'I.' He said, 'Tell it, you are indeed bold.' I said, 'He ﷺ mentioned the *Fitnah* of a man in his family, his wealth, his self, his child, and his neighbor - which are all expiated for by prayer, charity, the ordering of good, and the forbidding of evil.' He said, 'That is not what I meant; I am referring to (the *Fitnah*)

which will become agitated like the agitation of the sea (i.e. when people will become submersed in discord).’ I said, ‘O leader of the believers, indeed between it and you is a closed door.’ He said, ‘Woe unto you! Will the door be opened or will it break?’ I said, ‘Rather, it will break.’ He said, ‘Then it will never be closed again.’ I said, ‘Indeed.’ ”

Shafeeq Ibn Salamah said, “We said to Hudhaifah, ‘It is as if ‘Umar ؓ knows who that door is?’ ” Hudhaifah answered, “Yes, I related to him a *Hadeeth* that was not false (not false because it was spoken by the Prophet ﷺ, who spoke not from desire, but from revelation).” Shafeeq later said, “We were afraid to ask Hudhaifah who the door was, so we asked Masrooq to ask.” Hudhaifah ؓ answered, “‘Umar.’ ” And this is exactly what occurred. After ‘Umar ؓ was killed in the year 23 H, people became engulfed in trials; ‘Umar’s death was what led to the spreading of those trials.

The Prophet ﷺ Foretold The Trials That ‘Uthmaan ؓ Was To Undergo

The Prophet ﷺ said that ‘Uthmaan Ibn ‘Affaan ؓ was from the inhabitants of Paradise but that he would first be afflicted by a trial. This happened when he was besieged in his own home. Throughout that trial until its culmination – when he was murdered – he was patient and was hoping for his reward from Allah ﷻ, and he ؓ became a martyr. When we previously discussed the events surrounding ‘Uthmaan’s murder, we mentioned those *Ahaadeeth* in which that murder was foretold by the Prophet ﷺ. Similarly, we mentioned those *Ahaadeeth* which foretold of the events that took place during the days of Jamal and Siffeen.^[1] And we seek help from Allah ﷻ.

The Prophet ﷺ Foretold ‘Ammar Ibn Yaasir’s Killing

There are narrations in which the Prophet ﷺ said that ‘Ammar ؓ would be killed. As for the Khawaarij, whom ‘Alee Ibn Abee Taalib ؓ fought, there are many *ahaadeeth* related about them, *ahaadeeth*

^[1] From this point forward, when Imam Ibn Katheer – may Allah have mercy on him – says about a *Hadeeth* or topic that he discussed it earlier, it might be from an earlier section of this volume, but he may be referring to what he wrote in a previous volume of his book on history.

We have hitherto mentioned – all praise is for Allah and all blessings are from Him. We have also discussed the murder of ‘Alee ؓ and the *ahaadeeth* that foretold it.

The Prophet ﷺ Specified That The Period Of The Caliphate Was To Last For Thirty Years After His Death And Then The Era Of Kingdoms Would Begin

Nabeehah ؓ reported that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “The *Khilafah* (caliphate) after me will last for thirty years; then there will be kingdom(s).” (Ahmad, Abu Daawood, An-Nisaaee, and At-Tirmidhee, who ruled it to be Hasan)

Those thirty years consisted of the caliphates of Abu Bakr As-Siddiq ؓ, ‘Umar Al-Farooq ؓ, ‘Uthmaan Ash-Shaheed ؓ, and ‘Alee ibn Abee Taalib Ash-Shaheed ؓ; the full thirty years came to an exact end with the end of Al-Hasan’s caliphate, which lasted for six months. As soon as those thirty years ended, which was in the year 40 H, Al-Hasan ؓ stepped down, allowing Mu’aawiyah ibn Abee Sufyaan ؓ to take his place, and the people pledged allegiance to him. That year was called the Year of the Gathering (because the people came together after having been divided). In an earlier section, we have already discussed this matter in detail.

The Prophet ﷺ Gave Tidings Of Al-Hasan ؓ Making Peace Between Two Huge Groups Of Muslims

Abu Bakrah ؓ related that he heard the Messenger of Allah ﷺ say while Al-Hasan ibn ‘Alee ؓ was beside him on the pulpit, “This son of mine is a leader, and through him, Allah ﷻ will bring together two huge groups of Muslims.” (*Bukhaaree*) And of course, that is what happened.

The Messenger Of Allah ﷺ Informed Umm Haraam Bint Milhaan ؓ That She Would Die In A Naval War

Umm Haraam bint Milhaan ؓ related that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ mentioned that his battles in the sea would be of two groups and that Umm Haraam would be from the first group. (*Bukhaaree and Muslim*) That occurred in the year 27 H, when Mu’aawiyah ؓ asked ‘Uthmaan ؓ permission to attack Qubrus. He gave his permission

THE MAHDEE

Who Will Come At The End Of Times; He Is One Of The Rightly-Guided Khaleefahs And Imams. But He Is Not The One Who Is Awaited By The Raafidah, Who Is Supposedly Now In A Vault In Saamiraa. There Is No Reality Or Basis To That Claim

What we will mention here is related in *Ahaadeeth* from the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, *Ahaadeeth* which indicate that the Mahdee will come at the end of times, and I think that he will appear before 'Eesa Ibn Maryam ﷺ descends, for that is implied in certain *Ahaadeeth*.

Some Of What Is Related Concerning The Mahdee

'Alee ؓ related that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "Even if there remains from this world a single day, Allah ﷻ will send a man from us who will fill it with justice, just as it was filled with oppression." (*Ahmad*) And in another narration, 'Alee ؓ related that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "The Mahdee is from us – the family of the Prophet ﷺ; Allah ﷻ will rectify him in a single night." (*Ahmad*) And in yet another narration, as 'Alee ؓ was looking at his son, Al-Hasan ؓ, he ؓ said, "Indeed this son of mine is a *Sayyid* (leader), which is what the Messenger of Allah ﷺ called him. There will emerge from his progeny a man who has the same name as your Prophet ﷺ; he will resemble him in character but not in appearance." (*Abu Daawood*) Abu Daawood As-Sijistaanee dedicated a book of his *Sunan* to A'i-Mahdee. In it he began by mentioning the narration of Jaabir ibn Samarah, in which the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "This religion will continue to remain standing until you will have had 12 *Khaleefahs* over you, all of whom the Nation gathered upon." And this is another narration: "The religion will continue to remain honored until 12 *Khaleefahs* (have gone by)." Jaabir ibn Samarah ؓ said, "Upon hearing this, the people made *Takbeer* (i.e., they said, 'Allahuakbar,' Allah is the Greatest) and were in an uproar. The Prophet ﷺ then said only a few words, after which I asked my father, 'What did he say?' He told me that the Prophet ﷺ said, 'All of them are from the

Quraish." According to another narration, when the Prophet ﷺ returned to his house, the Quraish went to him and asked, "And then what will happen?" The Prophet ﷺ said, "Then there will be *Iuraj* (gaps through which evil is allowed to enter, when there will be gaps within the ranks of Muslims)."

'Abdullah ibn 'Abdullah ibn Mas'ood ؓ related that the Prophet ﷺ said, "Even if there remains from this world only a single day...Allah ﷻ would prolong that day until a man from me or from my descendents is sent; his name is the same as my name, and his father's name is the same as my father's name." (*Abu Daawood*) And this is an addition from the *Hadeeth* of Qatr: "He will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it was filled with wrongdoing and oppression." And he ﷺ said in the *Hadeeth* of Sufyaan, "The world will not come to an end until a man from my family rules the Arabs; his name is the same as my name." This is how Imam Ahmad narrated it. At-Tirmidhee related it through another chain and said that it is *Hasan Saheeh*.

'Abdullah ؓ related that the Prophet ﷺ said, "A man from the people of my household will lead, and his name will be the same as my name." (*At-Tirmidhee*) In a similar narration Abu Hurairah ؓ related that the Prophet ﷺ said, "Were there to be a single day left in this world, Allah ﷻ would prolong that day until a man from the people of my household would rule; his name is the same as my name." This *Hadeeth* is *Hasan Saheeh*. And Abu Sa'eed ؓ reported that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "The Mahdee is from me; he has a large forehead, a large and thin nose that has an upward slope in its middle area, and he will fill the earth with fairness and justice, just as it was filled with wrongdoing and oppression. He will rule for seven years."

Umm Salamah ؓ reported that she heard the Messenger of Allah ﷺ say, "The Mahdee is from the people of my household, from the descendents of Faatimah ؓ." (*Abu Daawood*)

Umm Salamah ؓ, the wife of the Prophet ﷺ, also related that the Prophet ﷺ said, "There will be discord when a *Khaleefah* (ruler) dies. A man from the inhabitants of Madeenah will flee to Makkah, and people will come to him from the dwellers of Makkah. They will bring him out (from his home), yet he will be averse to what they want of him (either because of the trials associated with being leader or because he is fearing trials). Then they will pledge allegiance to

him between the *Rukn* (i.e. the Black Stone) and the *Maqaam* (the Station of Ibraaheem). An army will be sent to (attack) him from Sham (Syria and surrounding areas) and they will be swallowed up in Al-Baidaa – a place between Makkah and Al-Madeenah. When people will see that (i.e. the honor accorded to Al-Mahdee), the Abdaal from Sham will come to him and the best people from Iraq will come and pledge allegiance to him. Then a man from the Quraish will appear; his uncles are from the children of Kalb. He will send an army to them but they (i.e. those who pledged allegiance) will be victorious over them... Wealth will be distributed and people will apply the *Sunnah* of their Prophet ﷺ. Islam will achieve stability and firmness in the earth. That will last for seven years, after which the Mahdee will die and the Muslims will pray over him." (*Abu Daawood*)

'Alee ؑ related that the Prophet ﷺ said, "A (righteous) man will come out from behind the river (i.e. from countries that lie behind it), who is called Al-Haarith ibn Harraath. At the forefront of his army will be a man called Mansoor, who will strengthen and make firm the family (i.e. descendents) of Muhammad, just as the Quraish strengthened the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. It will be obligatory upon every Muslim to support him or (maybe he said) to answer him." (*Abu Daawood*)

'Abdullah ibn Al-Haarith ibn Juz Az-Zubaidee said, "The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, 'A people from the East will come and they will strengthen and enable the Mahdee – i.e. they will strengthen his rule.'" (*Ibn Maajah*)

What The Prophet ﷺ Said Concerning Some Of The Hardships That The People Of His Household Were To Undergo

'Alqamah related that 'Abdullah ؑ said, "As we were with the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, his eyes became bathed in tears and his color changed. I said, 'We still see something on your face (in terms of the Prophet's sadness) that we dislike.' The Prophet ﷺ said, 'Allah has chosen for us, the people of this household, the Hereafter over this world. And indeed, after me (the people of) my house will face affliction, expulsion, and exile, until a people from the direction of the East will come with black flags. They will ask for bread but they will not be given it. They will fight and they will be made victorious. Then they will be given what they asked, but they will not accept it

until they pass it (the matter of ruling) on to a man from the people of my household. He will fill it (i.e. the earth) with justice, just as it had been filled with oppression. Whoever from you reaches that, then go to them, even if you have to crawl on ice." (*Ibn Maajah*)

The *Hadeeth* indicates that the Mahdee should come after the rule of Banu 'Abbaas and that he is from the people of the Prophet's household, from the descendents of Faatimah, the daughter of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, and then from the descendents of Al-Hasan ؑ and Al-Husain ؑ. We pointed this out when we mentioned a *Hadeeth* related by 'Alee ibn Abee Taalib ؑ. And Allah ﷻ knows best.

In a *Hadeeth* related by Thaubaan ؑ, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "At your treasure three will be killed, each of whom is the son of a *Khaleefah* (ruler). The matter will not be passed on to any one of them, and then the black flags from the East will appear, and they will fight you with such fierce fighting that no people have (ever) fought with." Thaubaan said, "And then he mentioned something that I do not remember, after which he ﷺ said, 'When you see him (i.e. the Mahdee), then pledge allegiance to him, even (if you have to come to him) by crawling on ice. For indeed he is the *Khaleefah* of Allah, the Mahdee.'" (*Ibn Maajah*) Ibn Maajah alone related it, and its chain is strong and authentic. The apparent meaning is that the treasure referred to in this context is the treasure of the Ka'bah. Three children of the *Khaleefahs* will be killed as they try to take it, and then near the end of times, Al-Mahdee will arrive. And he will come from the countries of the East and not from the vault of Saamiraa, as is claimed by some ignorant elements of the *Raafidah*, who say that he is in it now. They are waiting for him to come out at the end of times. This belief is irrational talk and strongly indicates that those who hold it have been forsaken; hence they speak madness that is inspired to them by the *Shaitaan*, for it is a belief that is not supported by any proof – not from the Qur'an, not from the *Sunnah*, not from sound logic, and not from *Istihsaan*.

Abu Hurairah ؑ related that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "Black flags will emerge from Khuraasaan, and nothing will hold them back until they plant (their flags) in Eeliyaa (Jerusalem)." (*At-Tirmidhee*) This *Hadeeth* is *Ghareeb*. And the black flags mentioned are not those that Abu Muslim Al-Khurasanee came with when he overcame the Banu Umayyah government in the year 132 H. Rather,