

Order of Events on the Day of Judgment

Explained by Shaykh Salih Āli Shaykh

Shaykh Salih Āli Shaykh حفظه الله: This affair concerning the order of events on the Day of Judgment is an important affair. That which is mentioned in the Book and the Sunnah concerning what will occur on the Day of Judgment covers a great number of things; for example, the resurrection of the people, the pond, the scales, the scrolls, the reckoning, the presentation, the reading, receiving the books of deeds, the book, the bridge, and the darkness. There are various events, so in what order will they occur?

What is apparent, and from that which has been affirmed by the scholars who investigate the evidences, the order is as follows:

1. The Resurrection

When the people are resurrected and stand from their graves they will go to the land of gathering. Then they will stand at the land of gathering for a long time. Due to the standing, their condition and thirst will become unbearable. And they will be in a state of terror, due to the long standing and their certainty of the reckoning and what Allah the Exalted will do to them.

2. The Pond

When the people have stood for a long time, Allah the Exalted will raise for His Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم—his pond; first. Thus the pond of the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم will be placed on land of resurrection when the standing for the Lord of all that exists becomes severe on a day the length of which is fifty thousand years. Whoever dies upon the Sunnah of the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم without any changing, newly invented matters or alterations; then they will drink from the pond. Thus the first safety for them will be drinking from the pond of our Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم. Then after that every other Prophet will have his pond raised from him, and the righteous people from their nations will drink from it.

3. The Greatest Intercession

Afterwards, the people will stand for a long time, and then the great intercession will occur. This is the intercession of the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم, when he will intercede by asking Allah to hasten on the judgment upon the creation. It appears in the well-known

long narration that the people will ask Adam, then Noah, then Ibrahim, until they reach the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم. They will say to him: "O Muhammad" and they will describe to him the situation of the people, and the need of the people to be saved from the long standing by way of a swift reckoning. After the people request from the Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم to intercede for us with his Lord, he will say "I am fit for that, I am fit for that". He will go before the throne, fall prostrate, and praise Allah the Exalted with a praise Allah will inspire him with. Then it will be said to him: "O Muhammad raise your head. Ask and you shall be given, intercede and it shall be granted." Thus his intercession will be the greatest intercession to hasten on the judgment.¹

4. Presentation of Deeds

After that will be the presentation, the presentation of deeds.

5. First Reckoning

After the presentation of deeds comes the reckoning.

6. Flying of the scrolls

After the first reckoning the scrolls will fly. And the first reckoning is within the presentation of deeds because it contains argumentation and excuses. After that the scrolls will fly. The people from the right side will be given their books in their right hands while the people from the left shall be given their books in their left hand. And then the reading of the books will occur.

7. Second Reckoning

After the reading of the books there will be another reckoning to remove the excuses and establish the argument by reading what is present in the books.

¹ It was narrated that Anas ibn Malik said: Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) told us: "When the Day of Resurrection comes, the people will surge with each other like waves. They will come to Adam and say, 'Intercede for us with your Lord.' He will say, 'I am not fit for that. Go to Ibrahim for he is the Close Friend of the Most Merciful.' So they will go to Ibrahim, but he will say, 'I am not fit for that. Go to Moosa for he is the one to whom Allah spoke directly.' So they will go to Moosa but he will say, 'I am not fit for that. Go to Jesus for he is a soul created by Allah and His Word.' So they will go to Jesus but he will say, 'I am not fit for that. Go to Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).' So they will come to me and I will say, 'I am fit for that.' Then I will ask my Lord for permission and He will give me permission, and He will inspire me with words of praise with which I will praise Him, words that I do not know now. So I will praise Him with those words of praise and I will fall down prostrate before Him. He will say, 'O Muhammad, raise your head. Speak and intercession will be granted to you, ask and you will be given, intercede and your intercession will be accepted.' (al-Bukhari 4712)

8. The Scales

Afterwards comes the weighing and the scales. All that we have mentioned will be weighed.

9. Placing the people into groups

After the scales, the people will be placed into groups and pairs; pairs meaning everyone will be placed with those similar to them. The banners will be hoisted – the banners of the Prophets, the banner of Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم the banner of Ibrahim, the banner of Moosa; etc. The people will be beneath the banners according to their categories, each person being with those they resemble.

The oppressors and disbelievers will likewise be gathered into groups, meaning they will be gathered with those they resemble. As Allah the Exalted said:

احْشُرُوا الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا وَأَزْوَاجَهُمْ وَمَا كَانُوا يَعْبُدُونَ ﴿٢٢﴾ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ فَاهْدُوهُمْ إِلَى صِرَاطِ الْجَحِيمِ ﴿٢٣﴾

(It will be said to the angels): "Assemble those who did wrong, together with their companions and what they used to worship; instead of Allah, and lead them on to the way of flaming Fire (Hell)²

The meaning of "their companions" is those who resemble them and are similar to them. The scholars from the polytheists will be gathered along with the other scholars from the polytheists. The oppressors will be gathered alongside the oppressors. Those who denied the resurrection will be gathered along with the others who denied the resurrection. Those who denied the Messengers will be gathered with those who denied the Messengers. They will be gathered like this into groups.

10. The Darkness

After this Allah the Exalted will place darkness in front of the Hell-fire. And with Allah refuge is sought. The people will proceed according to the light they are given. This Ummah will proceed and there will be amongst them the hypocrites. As the people proceed forward using their lights, the wall will be raised.

فَضْرِبَ بَيْنَهُمْ بِسُورٍ لَهُ بَابٌ بَاطِنُهُ فِيهِ الرَّحْمَةُ وَظَاهِرُهُ مِنْ قِبَلِهِ الْعَذَابُ ﴿١٣﴾ يُنَادُوهُمْ أَلَمْ نَكُنْ مَعَكُمْ ۖ قَالُوا بَلَىٰ وَلَكِنَّكُمْ فَتَنْتُمْ أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَتَرَبَّصْتُمْ وَارْتَبْتُمْ وَعَرَّيْتُمْ الْأَمَانِي حَتَّىٰ جَاءَ أَمْرُ اللَّهِ وَعَرَّكُم بِاللَّهِ الْغُرُورُ ﴿١٤﴾

² Soorah Aş-Şāffāt 37:22-23

So a wall will be put up between them, with a gate therein. Inside it will be mercy, and outside it will be torment." (The hypocrites) will call the believers: "Were we not with you?" The believers will reply: "Yes! But you led yourselves into temptations, you looked forward for our destruction; you doubted (in Faith); and you were deceived by false desires, till the command of Allah came to pass. And the chief deceiver (Shaytan) deceived you in respect of Allah."³

Allah the Exalted will give the believers their light thus they will see their path of the bridge. As for the hypocrites, they will not be given any light. Therefore they will be with the disbelievers, and they will tumble into the Hell-fire. They will walk forward while the Hell-fire is in front of them. And with Allah refuge is sought.

11. Crossing the Bridge over the Hell-fire

Then the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم will come and he will be the first to cross the bridge. He will pray to Allah the Exalted for himself and his Ummah. He will say:

اللَّهُمَّ سَلِّمْ سَلِّمْ، اللَّهُمَّ سَلِّمْ سَلِّمْ

O Allah, grant safety, grant safety, O Allah, grant safety, grant safety

The Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم will cross the bridge and then his Ummah will cross over the bridge. Each person will cross the bridge according to their actions and they will likewise have with them light according to their actions. Those whom Allah the Exalted forgives will pass over the bridge; while a group from the people of Tawheed – whom Allah desires to punish – will fall into the Hell-fire.

When they have finished with the Hell-fire they will gather upon the courtyard of Paradise which Allah the Exalted has prepared. This is so the believers can extract retribution from one another and to remove rancor between them so they will enter Paradise while there is no rancor in their hearts.

12. Entrance into Paradise

The first to enter Paradise after the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم will be the poor from amongst the companions of the Prophet who migrated to Madinah, then the poor from amongst the Ansar, then the remaining poor from amongst the Ummah. The rich will be delayed

³ Soorah Al-Ĥadīd 57:13-14

due to the reckoning between them and the creation in order to take them to account for what occurred between them.

And there are other events which will occur that have been mentioned in the Glorious Quran.

I ask Allah the Exalted to make us from the inhabitants of Paradise and to save us from His Anger and from the Fire.

Translated by Rasheed ibn Estes Barbee