

Bliss in the grave passes by Fast. Punishment in the grave passes by Slow

Explained by Shaykh Uthaymeen

Summary translation

Question: O Shaykh, verily I love you for the sake of Allah. One of the Imams in the Masjids said that the Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم said the time period the deceased believer remains in his grave, Allah will make it like the Asr or Dhur prayer. Is this correct?

Shaykh Uthaymeen: May Allah, the One Whose sake you love me for, love you. And we ask Allah to make us from those who love each other for His sake.

Know! The time as it relates to the deceased person goes by quickly. It passes by quickly as though it is nothing at all. Allah caused a man to die, and he remained dead for one hundred years. When He raised him to life:

قَالَ كَمْ لَبِثْتَ

He said: "How long did you remain (dead)?"

What did he said?

قَالَ لَبِثْتُ يَوْمًا أَوْ بَعْضَ يَوْمٍ

He (the man) said: "(Perhaps) I remained (dead) a day or part of a day".¹

While he had been deceased for one hundred years! He said a day or part of a day. This is because Allah caused him to die at the beginning of the day and brought him back to life at the end of the day.

And the people of the cave:

وَلَبِثُوا فِي كَهْفِهِمْ ثَلَاثَ مِائَةٍ سِنِينَ وَازْدَادُوا تِسْعًا

And they stayed in their Cave three hundred years, and add nine.²

And this was sleep. And sleep is not like death; rather death is faster as it relates to how fast the time passes by. Those who have been dead for millions of years, it will be as though no time at all has passed by them, as though they died just now.

¹ Soorah Al-Baqarah 2:259

² Soorah Al-Kahf 18:25

Those who are experiencing bliss in their graves, the time will pass by them quickly; much quicker. But those who are experiencing the fire in their graves, the time will pass by slowly. And the time for them will be long. We ask Allah for safety and security.

This is something witnessed. Ibn Khaldun said: "Surely the days of safety, and the pleasant days pass by quickly, while the days of hunger, war and tribulation are long".

This is correct. So I say O my brother; every person who is buried, when the day of Judgment arrives:

كَأَنَّهُمْ يَوْمَ يَرَوْنَهَا لَمْ يَلْبَثُوا إِلَّا عَشِيَّةً أَوْ ضُحَاهَا ﴿٤٦﴾

The Day they see it, (it will be) as if they had not tarried (in this world) except an afternoon or a morning.³

Consequently the criminals will say:

قَالُوا يَا وَيْلَنَا مَنْ بَعَثَنَا مِنْ مَرْقَدِنَا ﴿٥٢﴾

They will say: "Woe to us! Who has raised us up from our place of sleep."⁴

It will be as though he was sleeping. In summary, may Allah bless you; I do not know about this Hadith, is it authentic or not. But I say to you, the time will pass by rapidly, faster than the blink of an eye.

Translated by Rasheed ibn Estes Barbee

³ Soorah An-Nāzi`āt 79:46

⁴ Soorah Yā-Sīn 36:52