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# **Book of The End: Great Trials and Tribulations**

by

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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,<sup>[1]</sup> 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.

<sup>[1]</sup> This book is a continuation of Ibn Katheer's history book, *Al-Bidayah Wun-Nihayah*; 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.<sup>[1]</sup> 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*

<sup>[1]</sup> From this point forward, when Imam Ibn Kathir - 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 *shaketh* 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

Nakhaab ؓ 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-Faarooq ؓ, 'Uthmaan Ash-Shahheed ؓ, and 'Alee Ibn Abee Taalib Ash-Shahheed ؓ; 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 Al-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 *limj* (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 ؓ 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 Inam 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 *Maqam* (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 Dawood)

'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 Dawood)

'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 Kanu '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 *Istisnaa*.

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)." (Al-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,