

Last Day 2 – categories of the signs before the Day of Judgment

QUESTION: Can the signs before the Day of Judgement be divided into different categories? ¹

ANSWER: Islam teaches that there are many signs that signify that the Day of Judgement is approaching. These have been divided by scholars over the last 1400 years into three categories:

The first of these are the Lesser Signs, and these have already occurred.

So these include: the coming of Muhammad (may perfect peace and security be upon him) himself, as well as his death.

One of the Companions (those who accompanied the Prophet and learned from him) whose name was Hudhayfah mentioned another one of these signs was the murder of 'Uthmaan, who was the third caliph of Islam.

Hudhayfah then went on to mention other Lesser Signs such as the appearance of deviant sects such as the Khawaarij (a misguided and bloodthirsty group who are exemplified nowadays by Osamah bin Ladin and al Qa'idah) and the Raafidee Shi'ah (an misguided sect who curse the Companions, as exemplified by Khomeini and other Iranians).

This category also includes signs such as the abundance of earthquakes, and the earth swallowing up people and towns.

The second of these are the Intermediate Signs and these continue to appear in our times.

So these include: the towns becoming close to each other to the extent that it is as if the whole world is a single village; the people competing with each other in the building of mosques; the la'eem (lowly and depraved person) and the ahmaq (stupid, foolish person) becoming a leader of the people.

The third of these are the Major Signs and these include:

The coming of the Mehdi, the emergence of the Dajjaal (which is often translated as the Anti Christ), the return of Jesus who will kill him, the appearance of Gog and Magog and the rising of the Sun from the west.

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NEXT TIME: Who or what is the Mehdi, whose coming is one of the Major Signs of the Day of Judgement?

¹ Refer to *al irshaad ilaa saheeh il i'tiqaad* of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan p221-5 for more information

