

Last Day 1 – will the Day of Judgment be soon?

QUESTION: What do Muslims believe about the Last Day? Does Islam teach that it is something which will happen in the near future or not?

ANSWER: Islam, as is the case with Christianity and Judaism also, teaches that there will occur at some point in the future a Day of Judgement. It is this topic that we will turn our attention to in the following emails.

What do Muslims believe about the Last Day? ¹

The first point we will mention is that Muslims believe that the Last Day is very near to taking place. The Qur'an states this many times:

The Hour has come near, and the moon has split (in two).

Soorah al Qamar (the 54th chapter) verse 1

The Qur'an even describes it as "tomorrow":

And let every soul look to what it has put forward (in preparation) for tomorrow.

Soorah al Hashr (the 59th chapter) verse 18

Muhammad (may perfect peace and security be upon him) mentioned that the Final Hour is very close. He said:

My being sent and the Hour are like these two (and he gestured with his index finger and his middle finger, showing how close they are together).

Before the Last Day actually occurs, Islam teaches that there will be a number of signs that will take place.

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

Obviously when these signs occur, the people who see them and appreciate them for what they actually are will take heed of them and get themselves ready for that Day.

But there will be people for whom the Last Day comes and catches them completely unawares:

The Qur'an mentions:

Are they waiting for other than the Hour to come upon them suddenly and unexpectedly while they are not aware?

Soorah az Zukhruf (the 43rd chapter) verse 66

So when in the future will this Day occur?

Muslims believe that no one knows this other than Allah. We can see the wisdom behind this, for the people must then be in a constant state of preparedness, rather than just resting on their laurels. It is similar to the idea that no one knows when they will die, so that people will remain keen to be always doing good in case death comes to them that same day.

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NEXT TIME: Can the signs before the Day of Judgement be divided into different categories?