71201 - Will the Sun Rise from the West before the Day of Judgement?

the question

In the North Pole and South Pole sun never sets for six months and never rises for six months. The sun rises from east and when it reaches the west it does not set but it rises again, this process continues for six months. Now two questions arise out of this scenario A. How does one pray Maghrib and `Isha' Salat? B. How can we explain/understand the hadith that says `sun will rise from the west before judgement day'?

Summary of answer

One of the signs of the onset of the Hour is that the sun will rise from the west instead of rising from the east. When that happens, it will indicate that the onset of the Hour is very close, and at that time belief will not benefit the disbeliever at all.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

The Sun's Predestined Course

The sun is one of the signs of Allah, for which He has created a course in which it runs, and a system from which it does not change. It rises in the east every day, but when Allah gives permission for the world to end and the Hour to begin, He will command it to rise from the west. At that time all people will believe and will be certain of the resurrection, but their faith will not avail them anything at that moment, except for those who believed before.

Allah Says (interpretation of the meaning):

{The day that some of the Signs of your Lord do come, no good will it do to a person to believe

then, if he believed not before, nor earned good (by performing deeds of righteousness) through his Faith.} [Al-An`am 6:158]

Al-Bukhari (4635) and Muslim (157) narrated that Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) said: The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “The Hour will not begin until the sun rises from its place of setting. When it rises from its place of setting, all people will believe, but on that day {no good will it do to a person to believe then, if he believed not before,} [Al-An`am 6:158 interpretation of the meaning].”

Allah Says, describing the movement of the sun and its submission to the command of Allah (interpretation of the meaning):

{And the sun runs on its fixed course for a term (appointed). That is the Decree of the All-Mighty, the All-Knowing.} [Ya-Sin 36:38]

The Sun’s Prostration and the Final Hour

This is explained in the Sunnah. Al-Bukhari (3199) narrated that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said to Abu Dharr (may Allah be pleased with him), when the sun sets: “Do you know where it goes?” He said: Allah and His Messenger know best. He said: “It goes and prostrates beneath the Throne, and it asks for permission, and permission is given to it. But soon it will prostrate and it will not be accepted from it, and it will ask for permission and permission will not be given to it, and it will be said to it: `Go back from where you came.’ So it will rise from its place of setting, and that is what Allah says (interpretation of the meaning): {And the sun runs on its fixed course for a term (appointed). That is the Decree of the All-Mighty, the All-Knowing.’}

At-Tahhawi (may Allah have mercy on him) said in his well-known book *Al-`Aqidah At-Tahhawiyyah*: We believe in the portents of the Hour, the emergence of the Dajjal, the descent of `Isa ibn Maryam (peace be upon him) from heaven, and we believe that the sun will rise from the west. End quote.

The Sun's Movement and the Refutation of Modern Claims

Shaykh Ibn `Uthaymin (may Allah have mercy on him) said: Similarly, the sun and moon travel in their orbits along the courses decreed for them until an appointed time, until Allah will give permission for this universe to be destroyed. Then the sun will emerge from its place of setting as is narrated in Al-Bukhari from Abu Dharr. Then he quoted the Hadith mentioned above.

This Hadith clearly indicates that the sun travels by itself, as is also indicated by the verses in which Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

{And the sun runs on its fixed course.} [Ya-Sin 36:38]

{Each running (on a fixed course) for an appointed term.} [Az-Zumar 39:5]

{each in an orbit floating.} [Al-Anbiya' 21:33]

This evidence proves false the idea that the sun is fixed and does not move, and indicates that this is a false notion which should be refuted. (End quote from *Majmu` Fatawa wa Rasa'il Al-Shaykh Ibn `Uthaymin*, 6/195)

The Rising of the Sun from the West

In conclusion, one of the signs of the onset of the Hour is that the sun will rise from the west instead of rising from the east. When that happens, it will indicate that the onset of the Hour is very close, and at that time belief will not benefit the disbeliever at all.

For more details, please see the following answers: 43840, 8398, 22203, 182318.

And Allah knows best.