78329 - Signs of the Day of Judgment

the question

What are the major and minor signs of the Day of Judgment?

Summary of answer

The signs of the Day of Judgment are the things that will happen before the Resurrection takes place and will indicate that it is close at hand. They have been divided into major and minor signs.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Signs of the Day of Judgment

The signs and portents of the Day of Resurrection are the things that will happen before the Resurrection takes place and will indicate that it is close at hand. They have been divided into lesser and greater signs.

The lesser signs, for the most part, will occur a long time before the Resurrection begins. Some of them have happened and ended – although they may be repeated – and some of them have appeared and are ongoing, and some have not yet happened, but they will happen as the truthful one (the Prophet) (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) has told us.

The major signs are serious matters, the appearance of which will indicate that the Day of Resurrection is at hand and that there is only a short time until that great Day comes.

The lesser signs of the Hour are many, and are mentioned in many sahih ahadith. We will list them together without quoting the ahadith, because there is not enough room to do so here. We will provide references to trustworthy books on the topic for those who wish to know more about this

matter and the evidence for these signs. These include al-Qiyamah al-Sughra by Shaykh ‘Umar Sulayman al-Ashqar [this book is available in English translation under the title The Minor Resurrection, published by International Islamic Publishing House, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia] and Ashrat al-Sa’ah by Shaykh Yusuf al-Wabil.

Minor Signs of the Day of Judgment

The lesser signs of the Hour include the following:

1. The sending of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

2. The death of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

3. The conquest of Jerusalem.

4. The plague of ‘Amwas (Emmaus), which is a city in Palestine.

5. Widespread wealth and lack of need for charity.

6. The appearance of fitan (tribulations). Among the tribulations that occurred in the early years of Islam were: the killing of ‘Uthman (may Allah be pleased with him), the battle of the camel and the battle of Siffin, the emergence of the Khawarij, the battle of al-Harrah, and the opinion that the Quran is a creation.

7. The emergence of claimants to prophethood, such as the liar Musaylimah and al-Aswad al-‘Anasi.

8. The appearance of fire in the Hijaz, which appeared in the middle of the 7 th century AH, in 654 AH. This was a great fire, which the scholars who were alive at the time of its appearance and those who came after them described in great detail. Al-Nawawi said: There appeared in our time a fire in Madinah, in the year six hundred and fifty-four. It was a very great fire on the eastern side of Madinah, beyond the Harrah, and knowledge of it was widespread throughout Syria and all lands. Those of the people of Madinah who were present told me about it.

9. Loss of trust. One of the manifestations of loss of trust is people’s affairs being entrusted to those who are not qualified or able for that.

10. The taking away of knowledge and the prevalence of ignorance; the taking away of knowledge will occur with the disappearance of the scholars, as it says in al-Sahihayn.

11. The spread of zina (adultery, fornication)

12. The spread of riba (usury, interest)

13. The prevalence of musical instruments.

14. Widespread drinking of alcohol.

15. Shepherds competing in the construction of tall buildings.

16. A slave woman giving birth to her mistress, as is stated in al-Sahihayn. There are several views among the scholars as to what this means. The view favoured by Ibn Hajar is that there will be widespread disobedience among children, so that a child will treat his mother as a master treats his slave woman, with negligence and insults.

17. Widespread killing.

18. Widespread earthquakes.

19. Appearance of landslides, transformations and stones from heaven.

20. Appearance of women who are clothed yet naked.

21. Believer’s dreams coming true.

22. Widespread giving of false testimony and concealment of true testimony.

23. Large numbers of women.

24. The land of the Arabs becoming once again meadows and rivers.

25. The Euphrates will uncover a mountain of gold.

26. Wild animals and inanimate objects will speak to people.

27. The “Romans” will increase in number and fight the Muslims.

28. The conquest of Constantinople.

Major Signs of the Day of Judgment

The major portents of the Hour are those which were mentioned by the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in the hadith of Hudhayfah ibn Asid, and there are ten signs:

1. the Dajjal ;

2. the descent of ‘Isa ibn Maryam (Jesus son of Mary);

3. Yajuj and Majuj (Gog and Magog) ;

4. three landslides, one in the east,

5. one in the west

6. and one in the Arabian Peninsula;

7. the smoke;

8. the rising of the sun from its place of setting;

9. the Beast;

10. and the fire which will drive the people to their place of gathering.

These signs will appear one after another, and when the first of these signs appears, the others will come soon after.

Muslim narrated that Hudhayfah ibn Asid al-Ghifari (may Allah be pleased with him) said: The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) came out to us when we were discussing. He said: “What are you discussing?” They said: “We are talking about the Hour.” He said: “It will never begin until you see ten signs before it.” He mentioned the smoke, the Dajjal, the Beast, the rising of the sun from its place of setting, the descent of ‘Isa ibn Maryam (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), Yajuj and Majuj, and three landslides, one in the east, one in the west and one in the Arabian Peninsula, and the last of that is a fire which will emerge from Yemen and drive the people to their place of gathering.

Order of the Signs of the Day of Judgment

There is no sahih text which states the order in which these signs will occur, rather the order of some of them is to be understood from the context of the texts.

Shaykh Muhammad al-Salih al-‘Uthaymin (may Allah have mercy on him) was asked:

Will the major portents of the Hour occur in a certain order?

He replied:

“The order of some of the major portents is known , and in the case of others the order is not known. Among those whose order is known are the descent of ‘Isa ibn Maryam, the emergence of Yajuj and Majuj, and the Dajjal, for the Dajjal will be sent, then ‘Isa ibn Maryam will come down and kill him, then Yajuj and Majuj will emerge.

Al-Safarini (may Allah have mercy on him) listed the order of these portents in his ‘Aqidah, but some of the order is acceptable whilst some of it is not. But what matters is that there are major signs of the Hour and when they happen, the Hour has drawn nigh. Allah has decreed portents of the Hour, because it is a serious event and people need to know when it is about to happen.” (Majmu’ al-Fatawa (2/question no. 137)

And Allah knows best