

Other Tribulations Close in Severity to the Dajjāl

The Trials of the Grave

al-Bukhārī, Muslim, and Aḥmad collected a ḥadīth from Asmā Bint Abī Bakr (رضي الله) in which Allah’s messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

« مَا مِنْ شَيْءٍ لَمْ أَكُنْ أُرَيْتُهُ إِلَّا قَدْ رَأَيْتُهُ فِي مَقَامِي هَذَا ، حَتَّى الْجَنَّةَ وَالنَّارَ ، وَإِنَّهُ قَدْ أُوحِيَ إِلَيَّ أَنَّكُمْ تُفْتَنُونَ فِي الْقُبُورِ مِثْلَ أَوْ قَرِيبَ مِنْ فِتْنَةِ الْمَسِيحِ الدَّجَالِ ، يُؤْتَى أَحَدُكُمْ ، فَيَقَالُ لَهُ : مَا عَلِمَكَ بِهَذَا الرَّجُلِ ؟ فَأَمَّا الْمُؤْمِنُ ، أَوْ قَالَ : الْمُؤْمِنُ (شَكَّ هِشَامٌ) فَيَقُولُ : هُوَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ، هُوَ مُحَمَّدٌ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ ، جَاءَنَا بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ وَالْهُدَى ، فَأَمَّا وَأَجَبْنَا وَاتَّبَعْنَا وَصَدَّقْنَا ، فَيَقَالُ لَهُ : نَمْ صَالِحًا ، قَدْ كُنَّا نَعْلَمُ إِنْ كُنْتَ لَتُؤْمِنُ بِهِ ، وَأَمَّا الْمُنَافِقُ ، أَوْ قَالَ : الْمُرْتَابُ (شَكَّ هِشَامٌ) فَيَقَالُ لَهُ : مَا عَلِمَكَ بِهَذَا الرَّجُلِ ؟ فَيَقُولُ : لَا أَدْرِي سَمِعْتُ النَّاسَ يَقُولُونَ شَيْئًا فَقُلْتُ »

There is nothing I have not seen except that I was shown it right here, even Paradise and the fire. And it has been revealed to me that you will all be put to trial in your graves similar to the tribulation of the Dajjāl Messiah. Each of you will be asked, “What do you know of this man?” As for a believer or one with certain knowledge (Hishām, one of the narrators was not sure which word was used), he will answer, “He is the messenger of Allah, he is Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ). He came to us with clear teachings and guidance, so we believed (in

him), responded (to his call), followed (him), and considered him to be true.” He will then be told, “Sleep peacefully. We already knew you would believe in him.” As for a hypocrite or a doubter (Hishām was unsure), he too will be asked, “What do you know of this man?” but he will say, “I do not know. I only heard people saying something (about him) so I said it too.”¹

The prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) joined the seeking of protection from the grave and the Dajjāl in many ḥadīth. For example, Abū Huraryah (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ) reported that he (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

« عُوذُوا بِاللَّهِ مِنْ عَذَابِ اللَّهِ ، عُوذُوا بِاللَّهِ مِنْ عَذَابِ الْقَبْرِ ، عُوذُوا بِاللَّهِ مِنْ فِتْنَةِ الْمَسِيحِ الدَّجَالِ ، عُوذُوا بِاللَّهِ مِنْ فِتْنَةِ الْمَحْيَا وَالْمَمَاتِ »

Seek protection with Allah from the punishment of Allah. Seek protection with Allah from the punishment of the grave. Seek protection with Allah from the tribulation of the Dajjāl Messiah. Seek protection with Allah from the tribulations of life and death.²

Misguided Leaders

Imām Aḥmad collected from Abū Dharr (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ) that the prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

¹ Collected by al-Bukhārī, Muslim, and Aḥmad

² Collected by Muslim and al-Nasāī

THE
Dajjāl

KNOWING THE FALSE MESSIAH

« غَيْرُ الدَّجَالِ أَخَوْفُ عَلَيَّ مِنْ الدَّجَالِ »

There is something other than the Dajjāl I fear more for my nation.

Abū Dharr (رضي الله عنه) then asked him, “Messenger of Allah, what is more fearful for your nation than the Dajjāl?” He (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) answered:

« الْأَئِمَّةَ الْمُضِلِّينَ »

Misguided, misguiding leaders.³

al-Munāwī says, explaining this narration:

Ibn al-‘Arabī says: This still does not contradict the narrations which state that there is no greater tribulation than that of the Dajjāl. The prophet made this statement here (about misguided leaders) to his companions because what he feared more for them (specifically) is something closer to them than the (appearance of) the Dajjāl. Something that is certain to occur sooner is more feared than something that is to occur later, even though the latter may be more severe.⁴



³ Collected by Aḥmad, and al-Albānī says it is authentic in *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Jāmi’ al-Ṣaḡīr wa Ziyādatuh*, (no. 4165).

⁴ *Fayḍ al-Qadīr*, (4/407)