

The Length of The Dajjāl's Stay on Earth

In the well-known ḥadīth in *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim* about the Dajjāl, al-Nawwās Ibn Sam'ān (رضي الله عنه) said: We asked, “Messenger of Allah, and how long will he remain on earth?” He (صلى الله عليه وسلم) answered:

«...أَرْبَعُونَ يَوْمًا: يَوْمٌ كَسَنَةِ، وَيَوْمٌ كَشَهْرٍ، وَيَوْمٌ كَجُمُعَةٍ، وَسَائِرُ أَيَّامِهِ
كَأَيَّامِكُمْ»

...Forty days: one day as long as a year, one day as long as a month, one day as long as a week, and the remainder of his days will be like your normal days.

We further asked, “Messenger of Allah, the day which is as long as a year, will the prayers of a single day (i.e. five) be enough for us during that day?” He said:

« لَا أَقْدِرُوا لَهُ قَدْرَهُ »

No, calculate during it its proper amount (of prayers).¹

Explaining these forty days mentioned in the ḥadīth, Imām al-Nawawī says:

The scholars say that this ḥadīth is to be understood upon its apparent, literal meaning in that the (first) three days will be as long as the ḥadīth mentions. And his statement, “and the remainder of his days will be like your normal days” indicates this (literal meaning).

¹ Collected by Muslim

And about the statement, “No, calculate during it its proper amount,” al-Nawawī continues:

After the time of the morning prayer, when there has passed the length of time between it and the afternoon prayer as occurs every other day, then pray the afternoon prayer. Then when the length of time from then until the late afternoon prayer normally passes, pray the late afternoon prayer. And from then, when the (typical) length of time until sunset has passed, then pray the sunset prayer and likewise the night prayer, then the morning prayer...²



² *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim biSharḥ al-Nawawī* (18/65-66)