

Last Day 26 - Why might people be punished in their graves?

Based on the works of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan (حفظه الله)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

QUESTION: Why then are people punished in their graves?

ANSWER:

Since we have been discussing the Islamic belief about punishment in the grave, it is therefore important to explain why a person might experience this punishment.

Broadly speaking, there are, according to Islam, two types of reason as to why a person might be punished in his grave:

1) General causes. So these include committing sins and not fulfilling the commandments of Islam. Punishment in the grave occurs due to the person earning the Anger of Allaah, so whoever earns this Anger by performing actions which Islam forbids or leaving off actions which Islam commands with is liable to be punished in their grave.

However it is important to note that if a person sincerely repents from their sin, then that wipes away the sin and they will not be punished for that sin, neither in the grave nor in the Hereafter.

2) Specific causes. As this name would suggest, there are causes mentioned in the texts of Islam where a specific sin is mentioned and then threatened with punishment in the grave.

As an example of this, Muhammad (may perfect peace and security be upon him) told his companions that the person who deliberately goes amongst the people, trying to stir up bad feeling between the people, is liable to being punished in the grave – as is the person who does not clean himself properly after passing urine, the person who consumes interest (usury), the people who do not pay zakaat (the obligatory charity), etc.

And this is therefore an encouragement to us to avoid these sins which may lead to us being punished in our graves.