

Last Day 11 – Effect of believing in the Last Day

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

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

QUESTION: What effect should believing in the Last Day have upon the person?

ANSWER:

It goes without saying that Islam gives great importance to the idea of a Last Day.

The seriousness of that Day is repeatedly emphasised in the Qur'aan:

On the Day when a man will flee away from his brother and his mother and his father and his wife and his children. Every man on that Day will have enough to make him heedless of other people.

[Soorah 'Abasa (the 80th chapter) verses 34 to 37]

Islam teaches that people who hear about this Day and how it is described must stop to think about what they have done in preparation for the Day. Even in worldly matters – such as an impending flood or storm or tornado or war – a person who becomes aware of the potential seriousness of the situation, were it to occur to him, starts to think how he can avert that harm from himself. He seeks to prepare himself for the worst. This instinct for averting harm from oneself is something that we see in all humans, indeed in all animals as well.

Islam teaches that for any person who has any sense and hears about something so awesome as the Last Day must therefore feel the need to prepare for that.

The Qur'aan mentions:

So whoever hopes for the meeting with his Lord – then let him do righteous deeds and not make any shirk (associating partners) in the worship of his Lord.

[Soorah al Kahf (the 18th chapter) verse 110]

Muslims also know that believing in the Last Day helps a person to cope with the difficulties that may arise in this world, as shown when Saul and his soldiers met an enemy that was greater than them in numbers:

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They (Saul’s soldiers) said: “We have no power this day against Goliath and his soldiers.” But those who knew with certainty that they were to meet their Lord said: “How many a small group has overcome large group by the permission of Allaah!” And Allaah is with the patient.

[Soorah al Baqarah (the 2nd chapter) verse 249]

Disbelieving in that Last Day also has consequences, for if a person does not believe that he will ever be taken to account for his actions, what is there to keep him in check? This is mentioned often in the Qur’aan – for example:

Have you not seen the person who denies the Recompense? He is the one who drives away the orphan and does not encourage the feeding of the poor.

[Soorah al Maa’oon (the 107th chapter) verses 1 to 3]

So belief in the Last Day leads a person to prepare for it by accumulating good deeds and staying away from sins.