

## Islamic End Times Beliefs

Islam has a point when history is brought to a conclusion -- the final hour or the end times. This end time is a conflict between nations and Allah's Messiah, Jesus. There will be an end times world leader who opposes Allah and his rule. The Muslims call him, *Dajjal*. The Messiah defeats this end times world leader, who opposes Allah's law, which is found in the Quran. Gog and Magog head a group of nations opposed to Allah in the end of days.

Mahdi comes either before or with the return of Jesus, to set things in order. There is dispute within Islam regarding his nature and function. The Shia sect views this individual as the *12<sup>th</sup> Imam*, hidden until the time when he should appear.

### The time of the end

According to the Quran, the end times is hidden by Allah, who will reveal the time when it is at hand. [Surah 20:15 & Surah 30:63]

Even though the time is hidden, according to the Quran, there are signs, which Muslims are told to watch for. These signs are recorded in the 81st and 82nd Surahs. They list environmental events which affect the whole earth:

1) the sun is overthrown; 2) the stars fall; 3) the hills are moved; 3) the seas rise; 4) the pages are laid open; 5) the sky is torn away; 6) the sepulchers are overturned; 7) A soul will know what it hath sent before (it) and what left behind. [Surah 82:1-5. Al-Infitar & Surah 81:1-3, 6, 10-11]

In fact, the 41<sup>st</sup> book of the Sahih Muslims view events leading to the return of Jesus, son of Mary. Sahih Muslim lists ten signs leading to the return of Jesus. The Last Hour will not come until you see these signs: smoke, Dajjal, the beast, the rising of the sun from the west, the descent of Jesus son of Mary, Gog and Magog, and land-slidings in three places, fire would burn forth from the Yemen, and would drive people to the place of their assembly. [Sahih Muslim *Book 041, Number 6931*]

### The Dajjal (The Imposter)

Dajjal (Antichrist) plays a prominent role. He is described in several ways, one of the more common understandings is he will be a Jew who will have one eye, with the word *Kafir* on his forehead. He will lead the armies against Islam, only to be defeated by Jesus Christ, at the second coming. The Dajjal turns people to the wrong religion, causes rainfall and draught and does signs and wonders. Jesus returns in the end and kills the Dajjal, the Antichrist. Another person who plays a part in the Muslim perspective, is the Mahdi.

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The Mahdi will lead the armies of Islam in the end times struggle against the enemies of Islam. The Mahdi is not mentioned in the Quran, so almost all understanding of his role comes from Islamic tradition and history. The Mahdi will be of Muhammad's stock, and will have a broad forehead a prominent nose. He will fill the earth with equity and justice as it was filled with oppression and tyranny, and he will rule for seven years. [Abu Dawud *Book 36, Number 4272*]

According to the Shia sect, the Mahdi is the 12<sup>th</sup> Imam, the Hidden Imam, who disappeared in 878 A.D. They believe he is alive and will reappear at the end of time to lead the Muslim armies. Jesus and the armies of Mahdi conquer the world and force everyone to become Muslims. The Dajjal, the Antichrist, and his force of 70,000 Jews will be destroyed. In the process, Jesus will kill the pigs, break the crosses and kills the Jews. After this, Jesus will get married, live forty-years, and have children. He will die and be buried next to Mohammad in Medina.

The last hour would not come unless the Muslims will fight against the Jews and the Muslims would kill them until the Jews would hide themselves behind a stone or a tree and a stone or a tree would say: Muslim, or the servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me; come and kill him; but the tree Gharqad would not say, for it is the tree of the Jews. [Book 041, Number 6985: Sahih Muslim].

The Hour will not be established until the son of Mary (i.e. Jesus) descends amongst you as a just ruler, he will break the cross, kill the pigs, and abolish the Jizya tax. Money will be in abundance so that nobody will accept it (as charitable gifts). [Volume 3, Book 43, Number 656 Bukahri]

There is no prophet between me and him, that is, Jesus. He will descend. . . you will recognize him: a man of medium height, reddish fair, wearing two light yellow garments, looking as if drops were falling down from his head though it will not be wet. He will fight the people for the cause of Islam. He will break the cross, kill swine, and abolish jizyah. Allah will perish all religions except Islam. He will destroy the Antichrist and will live on the earth for forty years and then he will die. The Muslims will pray over him. [Book 37, Number 4310: Abu Dawud]

### The Resurrection

Following the death and burial of Jesus, will be the resurrection of all. This event will be preceded by the trumpet blast, which crushes the mountains. All will be gathered and submit to Allah. [Surah 69:13-16]

Every living creature will die, even the angels, causing all to submit to the oneness of Allah. (Surah 55:26-27, 28:88) Then all will be resurrected, including the angel who blows the trumpet to the resurrection. All will be gathered before

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the throne of Allah to be judged for their deeds. On this day, two groups will be separated. The believers will have joy and the disbelievers will face doom. [Surah 80:33-42]

### The Day of Accounting

With the masses assembled before the throne, the time comes for them to be divided, according to judgment. The sins and actions of humanity recorded in the book of deeds will be placed before them:

And the Book is placed, and thou seest the guilty fearful of that which is therein, and they say: What Kind of a book is this that leaveth not a small thing nor a great thing but hath counted it! And they find all that they did confronting them, and thy Lord wrongeth no one. [Surah 18:49]

Individuals whose good deeds outweigh their bad deeds will attain "Success". Those whose scales are light will lose their souls. (Surah 7:8-9) The people will be gathered to the right and the left of the throne of Allah, which is upheld by eight angels.

Those on the right will enter the Gardens of Paradise, those on the left will get chains for hell. Both groups will then be forced to cross over the bridge of "Hell", called *sirat* (*seerat*). [see Surah 69:18-31] The believers will be successful in their crossing, but those on the left will fall into Hell when they try to cross.

Then a bridge will be laid across Hell. I and my followers will be the first ones to go across it and none will speak on that Day except the Apostles. And the invocation of the Apostles on that Day will be, 'O Allah, save! Save!' In Hell (or over The Bridge) there will be hooks like the thorns of a thorny plant . . . Those hooks will snap the people away according to their deeds. Some of the people will stay in Hell (be destroyed) because of their (evil) deeds, and some will be cut or torn by the hooks (and fall into Hell) and some will be punished and then relieved. When Allah has finished His Judgments among the people, He will take whomever He will out of Hell through His Mercy. He will then order the angels to take out of the Fire all those who used to worship none but Allah from among those whom Allah wanted to be merciful to and those who testified (in the world) that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah. [Volume 9, Book 93, Number 532c: Bukhari]

### Mohammed as Intercessor

Mohammad takes on the role as intercessor for the Muslim. Even Jesus and Abraham cannot equal the intercession of Mohammad. So Muslims, on the day of judgment, put their ultimate hope on Muhammad and his ability to intercede.

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"Muhammad talked to us saying, 'On the Day of Resurrection the people will surge with each other like waves, and then they will come to Adam and say, 'Please intercede for us with your Lord.' He will say, 'I am not fit for that but you'd better go to Abraham . . .' They will go to Abraham and he will say, 'I am not fit for that, but you'd better go to Moses as he is the one to whom Allah spoke directly.' So they will go to Moses and he will say, 'I am not fit for that, but you'd better go to Jesus as he is a soul created by Allah and His Word.' they will go to Jesus and he will say, 'I am not fit for that, but you'd better go to Muhammad. . . . They would come to me (Muhammad) and I would say, 'I am for that.' . . . . Then He will say, 'Go and take out (all those) in whose hearts there is faith even to the lightest, lightest mustard seed. (Take them) out of the Fire.' I will go and do so . . ." [Volume 9, Book 93, Number 601: Bukhari]

### Heaven and Hell

Hell is a place of torment and burning; a place of torment for wrong doers; its crop is as it were the heads of devils; they must eat thereof, and fill (their) bellies therewith; they drink of boiling water [Surah 37:62-68]. Their foreheads and their flanks and their backs will be branded [Surah 9:35].

While Heaven (Paradise) is described as a place where one enjoys his wives, drinks non-intoxicating wine, and lives in bliss in the shade. It has a pearl sixty miles wide, where one set of wives do not see the others. This allows the believer to visit his many wives in Paradise, without having the other wives know. [Volume 6, Book 60, Number 402: Bukhari]

In contrast to the rest of those in Paradise, the martyr or the person who dies in Jihad, receives 72 wives in Paradise and has the right to intercede for seventy relatives.

"The martyr receives six good things from Allah: he is forgiven at the first shedding of his blood; he is shown his abode in Paradise; he is preserved from the punishment in the grave; he is kept safe from the greatest terror; he has placed on his head the crown of honor, a ruby of which is better than the world and what it contains; he is married to seventy-two wives of the maidens with large dark eyes; and is made intercessor for seventy of his relatives." [Al-Miqdam ibn madikarib Ma'dikarib (Hadith)]

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