

The Day of Judgement, Part 1

In Islam, belief in the Day of Judgement is one of the six foundations of faith. (They are to believe in God, his Angels, his Scriptures, his messengers, the day of Judgement, and fate [destiny], good or bad.) And if we remember, the word faith is to take for granted something that we cannot prove. If we can prove it, it will be a fact. As a result, faith has to do with what we believe to be the right or the truth.

Allah, the Almighty, says *“Among His signs, too, is the fact that the heavens and the earth stand firm by His command. In the end, you will all emerge when He calls you from the earth. Everyone in the heavens and earth belongs to Him, and all are obedient to Him. He is the One who originates creation and will do it again – this is even easier for Him. He is above all comparison in the heavens and earth; He is the Almighty, the All-Wise.”* [Quran 30: 25-27].

And He (may He be praised) says, *“Every soul will taste death, and you will only be given your [full] compensation on the Day of Resurrection. So he who is drawn away from the Fire and admitted to Paradise has attained [his desire]. And what is the life of this world except the enjoyment of delusion.”* [Quran 3: 185].

And then, there is the warning, *“Indeed, those who disbelieve - if they should have all that is in the earth and the like of it with it by which to ransom themselves from the punishment of the Day of Resurrection, it will not be accepted from them, and for them is a painful punishment.”* [Quran 5: 36].

Islam’s View of Death: A Hopeful Perspective for the Hereafter:

Death is one of the few indisputable facts of life. Regardless of faith, race, status, or age, we will all die. While the certainty of death is universally accepted, the question of what happens afterward has been debated throughout history. Islam teaches that one’s life doesn’t end on earth; instead, it is followed by the eternal life of the hereafter. I will try to explain how this belief significantly impacts our earthly lives while instilling hope for healing in a perfect world where God’s ultimate justice will prevail.

Despite its inevitability, we get so absorbed in living that we forget about death. Our daily routines, the comfort of our homes, and our relationships keep us so busy that we have little time left to ponder over the fleeting nature of this world.

Islam’s View of Death: A Perspective of Hope



Guest Column

HATIM HEGAB

and Continuity

Then, suddenly, we are forced to face the reality of our existence when a loved one is afflicted with a debilitating disease, or we experience a shocking loss. Helpless, we are jolted by the frailty of life, leading us to question our priorities and reevaluate our lifestyles. Muslims believe they will return to God (Allah in Arabic) when they die. Therefore, instead of the end, death becomes part of a continuum that stretches into eternity.

According to Islam, when confronted with a calamity, one should say, *“To God we belong and to Him we shall return”* [Quran 2: 156]. This invocation is also recited when someone dies. Reminding us of our origin and ultimate destiny puts our lives’ purpose in perspective. God clearly states in the Quran, the divinely revealed message from God to all humanity, that He has created humankind to worship Him. Since worship is a comprehensive concept in Islam, consisting of specific rituals and general actions that promote good,

it encourages people to conduct every aspect of their lives with God-consciousness.

Beyond This Life — The Hereafter

What happens after death? Does a world exist beyond this life? Is there such a place as heaven or Hell? These are common questions we ask from time to time. After all, the enigma of death stumps us. We’ve devised various ways of killing other humans. Yet, despite innumerable technological and medical advances, we still cannot prevent an individual from dying. Furthermore, unlike the daily life we experience, we don’t have firsthand knowledge of life after death. Aside from some near-death incidents, no one has come back from the dead to tell us what they encountered.

Due to their faith in the One and Only God who created this universe and sustains it, Muslims rely on divine guidance for glimpses of a reality invisible to human eyes. Divine guidance comprises prophetic examples and scriptural revelations. God sent prophets to guide humanity, such as Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad, the final prophet of God, peace be upon all of them. Moreover, He also revealed holy books, including the Torah, the Gospel, and the Quran,

the final revelation to humanity.

Islam’s View of the Afterlife: A Day of Judgment for All

In keeping with the universal message of God, every prophet warned of the certainty of the afterlife, and each of the divine books speaks of the existence of the soul. In the Quran, God promises, *“Every soul will taste death. Then to Us will you be returned”* [Quran 29: 57]. Every individual will be resurrected on the Day of Judgment to account for their lives. God describes this event in the Quran, *“On that Day, people will come forward in separate groups to be shown their deeds: whoever has done an atom’s weight of good will see it, but whoever has done an atom’s weight of evil will see that”* [Quran 99: 6-8]. God will weigh everyone’s good and bad actions according to His Mercy and His Justice, forgiving many sins and multiplying the reward for many noble deeds. One who excels in goodness will be rewarded generously, but one whose evils and wrongs outweigh his virtues will be punished.

The Rewards and Punishments of the Afterlife in Islam

Those who fulfilled their purpose in life and lived righteously will enter an eternal paradise

of pure bliss. The people of heaven will reside in beautiful mansions, no longer suffering from fatigue, disease, and old age. God will remove animosity and pain from people’s hearts, providing supreme healing in a world of abundance, luxury, lush gardens, and flowing rivers.

In contrast, those who die in a state of transgression against God or oppress others will be led to Hellfire. Despite God’s blessings, they neglected their ultimate purpose of leading their lives following His Will and Guidance. The Quran describes Hell as a place filled with immense suffering, extreme temperatures, unquenchable thirst, and blazing flames. Indeed, God wants each one of us to be salvaged in the afterlife. He has sent guidance and left signs for those who seek Him and reflect. At the same time, He has given us the choice to indulge in the world around us freely or to abide by His laws. In the Quran, God declares, “Why should God make you suffer torment if you are thankful and believe in Him? God always rewards gratitude and He knows everything” [Quran 4: 147]. To be continued...

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For more information: icstillwater.org/islam

Defrocked in 2004 for same-sex relationship, Methodist reinstated as pastor

Twenty years ago, Beth Stroud was defrocked as a United Methodist Church pastor after telling her Philadelphia congregation that she was in a committed same-sex relationship. On Tuesday night, less than three weeks after the UMC repealed its anti-LGBTQ bans, she was reinstated.

In a closed meeting of clergy from the UMC’s Eastern Pennsylvania region, Stroud exceeded the

two-thirds vote requirement to be readmitted as a full member and pastor in the UMC. Bishop John Schol of Eastern Pennsylvania welcomed the outcome, stating, “I’m grateful that the church has opened up to LGBTQ persons.” Stroud was brought into the meeting room after the vote, overcome with emotion. “I was completely disoriented,”

she told The Associated Press via email. “For what felt like several minutes I couldn’t tell where the front of the room was, where I was, where I needed to go. Everyone was clapping and then they started singing. The bishop asked me quietly if I wanted to say anything and I said I couldn’t.” She was handed the red stole that designates a fully ordained member of the clergy, and joined

her colleagues in a procession into a worship service. Earlier this month, delegates at a major UMC conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, struck down longstanding anti-LGBTQ policies and created a path for clergy ousted because of them to seek reinstatement. Stroud – even while recalling how her 2004 ouster disrupted her life – chose that path, though

some other past targets of UMC discipline chose otherwise. At 54, Stroud doesn’t plan a return to full-time ministry – at least not immediately. Now completing a three-year stint teaching writing at Princeton University, she is excited to be starting a new job as assistant professor of Christian history at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio .

– AP

Worship at the church of your choice this week

And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.



Romans 5:5

Stillwater Bible

Proclaiming Christ, Training Believers

JB Bond, Senior Pastor

Sundays

Worship Service.....8:30 a.m.

G.R.O.W. Groups.....9:45 a.m.

Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.

Kids' Church.....11:20 a.m.

Tuesdays

Cornerstone @ The Union (RM 297).....7:30 p.m.

Wednesdays

Stillwater Bible Institute.....6:30 p.m.

Impact Youth.....6:30 p.m.

Bible Kids.....6:30 p.m.

7617 W. 6th Ave.

Stillwaterbible.org (405) 564-5794

Crosspointe

CHURCH

Sunday School - 9:30

Sunday AM Worship - 10:30

Sunday PM Family Service - 6:00

Wed PM Bible Study - 7:00

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CHURCH

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SUNDAY

Bible Study • 9:30am

Worship Service • 11:00am

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

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www.fumcstw.org

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Sunday School.....10:00am

Closer Walk.....10 am Family Life Center

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Sunday School

9 am

Worship Service

8 am & 10:30 am

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Thursday.....7:30pm

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www.stillwaterfpc.org

Sunday Worship

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - in person, online

On KSPI radio AM 780 & FM 94.3

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Sunnybrook

Christian Church

421 E. Richmond Rd • 377.0923

www.sunnybrookccc.org

SUNDAY SERVICE SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45 am 8:30 am

11:15 am 9:45 am

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SUNDAY

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Worship.....10:30 AM

Bible Study.....5:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible study.....7:00 PM

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SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 AM + 6 PM

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Paul Hutchison - Pastor

Address - 1223 S. Perkins. Rd.

Phone: 405-372-2411

Email: southsidesillwater@gmail.com

The Islamic

Society of Stillwater

616 N. Washington St.

Friday (Weekly) Prayers

1:40 PM - 2:10 PM

For Daily Prayer Times

www.icstillwater.org

St. Francis Xavier

Catholic Church

711 N. Country Club Rd.

Sunday Mass 8:30 | 11:15 a.m.

1 p.m. (en español)

Tue & Thu Mass 12:10 p.m.

Wednesday Mass 12:10 p.m.

6 p.m. (en español)

Friday Mass 12:10 p.m.

Saturday Mass 9 a.m. | 5 p.m. (Vigil Mass)

Confessions Tues-Fri | 11:30-12 p.m.

Wednesday | 5 p.m.

Saturday | 9:45-11 a.m.

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Zion Lutheran

Church - LCMS

Sunday - 8:00, 10:30 AM

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John E. Wackler, Pastor

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