

The Urban Well

The Mercy Seminar 2026, Term II.5

Al-Qur'an

1. God gives life and death

7:158 'There is no god but He. He gives life, and makes to die. Believe then in God, and in His Messenger, the Prophet of the unlettered folk, who believes in God and His words, and follow him; haply so you will be guided.'

9:116 Surely to God belongs the kingdom of the heavens and of the earth; He gives life, and makes to die; and you have not, apart from God, either protector or helper.

57:1 All that is in the heavens and the earth magnifies God; He is the All-mighty, the All-wise. To Him belongs the Kingdom of the heavens and the earth; He gives life, and He makes to die, and He is powerful over everything.

67:1 Blessed be He in whose hand is the Kingdom -- He is powerful over everything -- who created death and life, that He might try you which of you is fairest in works; and He is the All-mighty, the All-forgiving.

10:57 Why, surely God's promise is true; but most of them have no knowledge. He gives life, and makes to die, and to Him you shall be returned.

2. Every soul will taste death

21:35 We have not assigned to any mortal before thee to live forever; therefore, if thou diest, will they live forever? Every soul shall taste of death; and We try you with evil and good for a testing, then unto Us you shall be returned.

4:79-80: Say: 'The enjoyment of this world is little; the world to come is better for him who fears God; you shall not be wronged a single date-thread.' Wherever you may be, death will overtake you, though you should be in raised-up towers.

3. God takes souls at night: messengers take those who die to God

39:43 God takes the souls at the time of their death, and that which has not died, in its sleep; He withholds that against which He has decreed death, but looses the other till a stated term.

6:60 It is He who recalls you by night, and He knows what you work by day; then He raises you up therein, that a stated term may be determined; then unto Him shall you return, then He will tell you of what you have been doing.

6:61 He is the Omnipotent over His servants. He sends guardians over you till, when any one of you is visited by death, Our messengers take him and they neglect not their duty. Then they are restored to God, their true Protector.

32:10 Say: ‘The Angel of Death, who has been charged with you, shall gather you; then to your Lord you shall be returned.’

Hadith: Ibn Majah (4262) narrated from Abu Hurayrah that the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said:

“Angels come to the dying person, and if the man was righteous, they say: ‘Come out, O good soul that was in a good body, come out praiseworthy and receive the glad tidings of mercy and fragrance and a Lord Who is not angry.’ And this is repeated until it comes out, then it is taken up to heaven, and it is opened for it, and it is asked, ‘Who is this?’ They say: ‘[It is] So and So.’ It is said: ‘Welcome to the good soul that was in a good body. Enter praiseworthy and receive the glad tidings of mercy and fragrance and a Lord Who is not angry.’ And this is repeated until it is brought to the heaven above which is Allah, may He be glorified and exalted. Then Allah, may He be glorified and exalted, says: ‘Record the book of My slave in ‘Illiyun (the highest heaven) and take him back to the earth, for I created them from it, and I shall return them to it, then I shall take them out from it again.’ But if the man was evil, they say: ‘Come out, O evil soul that was in an evil body. Come out blameworthy and receive the tidings of boiling water and dirty wound discharges, and other torments of similar kind, all together’ [cf. Saad 38:58]. And this is repeated until it comes out, then it is taken up to heaven and it is not opened for it. And it is said: ‘No welcome to the evil soul that was in an evil body. Go back blameworthy, for the gates of heaven will not be opened to you.’ So it is sent back down from heaven, then it goes to the grave.” (Classed as sahih by al-Albani in Sahih Ibn Majah)

4. Die surrendered to God

3:97: O believers, fear God as He should be feared, and see you do not die, save in surrender.

2:125 When his Lord said to him, ‘Surrender,’ he said, ‘I have surrendered myself to the Lord of all Being.’ And Abraham charged his sons with this and Jacob likewise: ‘My sons, God has chosen for you the religion; see that you die not save in surrender.’

47:35 O believers, obey God, and obey the Messenger, and do not make your own works in vain. Those who disbelieve and turn from God's way and then die disbelieving, them God will not forgive. So do not faint and call for peace; you shall have the upper hand, and God is with you, and will not deprive you of your works. The present life is naught but a sport and a diversion.

5. No death-bed repentance accepted

4:22 God shall turn only towards those who do evil in ignorance, then shortly repent; God will return towards those; God is All-knowing, All-wise. But God shall not turn towards those who do evil deeds until, when one of them is visited by death, he says, ‘Indeed now I repent,’ neither to those who die disbelieving; for them We have prepared a painful chastisement.

23:101-104 When death comes to one of them, he says, ‘My Lord, return me; haply I shall do righteousness in that I forsook.’ Nay, it is but a word he speaks; and there, behind them, is a barrier until the day that they shall be raised up. For when the Trumpet is blown, that day there shall be no kinship any more between them, neither will they question one another.

63:10 Expend of what We have provided you before that death comes upon one of you and he says, ‘O my Lord, if only Thou wouldst defer me unto a near term, so that I may make freewill offering, and so I may become one of the righteous.’ But God will never grant any soul reprieve when its term comes. And God is aware of the things you do.

6. God gives life, death, and life

22:68 Surely God is All-gentle to men, All-compassionate. It is He who gave you life, then He shall make you dead, then He shall give you life.

46:30 What, have they not seen that God who created the heavens and earth, not being wearied by creating them, is able to give life to the dead? Yes indeed; He is powerful over everything.

22:8-9 And thou beholdest the earth blackened, then, when We send down water upon it, it quivers, and swells, and puts forth herbs of every joyous kind. That is because God -- He is the Truth, and brings the dead to life, and is powerful over everything, and because the Hour is coming, no doubt of it, and God shall raise up whosoever is within the tombs.

41:39 And of His signs is that thou seest the earth humble; then, when We send down water upon it, it quivers, and swells. Surely He who quickens it is He who quickens the dead; surely He is powerful over everything.

42:7 Or have they taken to them protectors apart from Him? But God -- He is the Protector; He quickens the dead, and He is powerful over everything.

23:12-15 We created man of an extraction of clay, then We set him, a drop, in a receptacle secure, then We created of the drop a clot, then We created of the clot a tissue, then We created of the tissue bones, then We garmented the bones in flesh; thereafter We produced him as another creature. So blessed be God, the fairest of creators! Then after that you shall surely die, then on the Day of Resurrection you shall surely be raised up. And We created above you seven ways, and We were not heedless of creation.

19:15, 34 ‘Peace be upon him, the day he was born, and the day he dies, and the day he is raised up alive!’ [John the Baptist] ‘Peace be upon me, the day I was born, and the day I die, and the day I am raised up alive!’ [Mary]

7. Raising the dead is a fairy tale of the ancients?

11:9-14 And it is He who created the heavens and the earth in six days, and His Throne was upon

the waters -- that He might try you, which one of you is fairer in works. And if thou sayest, 'you shall surely be raised up after death,' the unbelievers will say, 'This is naught but a manifest sorcery.' And if We postpone the chastisement from them till a reckoned moment they will say 'What is detaining it?' Surely, the day it shall come to them, it shall not be turned aside from them, and they shall be encompassed by that they mocked at.

23:80-85 It is He who gives life, and makes to die, and to Him belongs the alternation of night and day; what, will you not understand? Nay, but they said the like of what the ancients said. They said, 'What, when we are dead and become dust and bones, shall we be indeed raised up? We and our fathers have been warned of this before; this is naught but the fairytales of the ancients.'

45:20-25 God created the heavens and the earth in truth, and that every soul may be recompensed for what it has earned; they shall not be wronged. They say, 'There is nothing but our present life; we die, and we live, and nothing but Time destroys us.' Say: 'God gives you life, then makes you die, then He shall gather you to the Day of Resurrection, wherein is no doubt, but most men do not know.'

75:5-15 Nay, but man desires to continue on as a libertine, asking, 'When shall be the Day of Resurrection?' But when the sight is dazed and the moon is eclipsed, and the sun and moon are brought together, upon that day man shall say, 'Whither to flee?' No indeed; not a refuge! Upon that day the recourse shall be to thy Lord. Upon that day man shall be told his former deeds and his latter; nay, man shall be a clear proof against himself, even though he offer his excuses.

8. The Death of Martyrs

3:163 Count not those who were slain in God's way as dead, but rather living with their Lord, by Him provided, rejoicing in the bounty that God has given them, and joyful in those who remain behind and have not joined them, because no fear shall be on them, neither shall they sorrow, joyful in blessing and bounty from God, and that God leaves not to waste the wage of the believers.

Hadith collected by Muslim: No soul that has a good standing with Allah and dies would wish to go back to the life of this world, except for the martyr. He would like to be returned to this life so that he could be martyred again, for he tastes the honor achieved from martyrdom.

9. Resurrection of Jesus

4:152-157 The People of the Book will ask thee to bring down upon them a Book from heaven; and they asked Moses for greater than that, for they said, 'Show us God openly.' And the thunderbolt took them for their evildoing. Then they took to themselves the Calf, after the clear signs had come to them; yet We pardoned them that, and We bestowed upon Moses a clear authority. And We raised above them the Mount, taking compact with them; and We said to them, 'Enter in at the gate, prostrating'; and We said to them, 'Transgress not the Sabbath'; and We took from them a solemn compact.

So, for their breaking the compact, and disbelieving in the signs of God, and slaying the Prophets without right, and for their saying, 'Our hearts are uncircumcised'—nay, but God sealed them for their unbelief, so they believe not, except a few—and for their unbelief, and their uttering against Mary a mighty calumny, and for their saying, 'We slew the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, the Messenger of

God'—yet they did not slay him, neither crucified him, only a likeness of that was shown to them. Those who are at variance concerning him surely are in doubt regarding him; they have no knowledge of him, except the following of surmise; and they slew him not of a certainty—no indeed; God raised him up to Him; God is All-mighty, All-wise. There is not one of the People of the Book but will assuredly believe in him before his death, and on the Resurrection Day he will be a witness against them.

10. Glories of Paradise

3:182: Every soul shall taste of death; you shall surely be paid in full your reward on the Day of Resurrection. Whosoever is removed from the Fire and admitted to the Garden, shall win the triumph. The present life is but the joy of delusion.

44:51-56 Surely the god-fearing shall be in a station secure among gardens and fountains, robed in silk and brocade, set face to face. Even so; and We shall espouse them to wide-eyed houris [beautiful young virgins], therein calling for every fruit, secure. They shall not taste therein of death, save the first death, And He shall guard them against the chastisement of Hell -- a bounty from thy Lord; that is the mighty triumph.

11. Agonies of death for evil-doers'

37:15-20 'This is the Day of Decision, even what you used to deny. Gather those who did evil, their wives, and what they were worshipping apart from God, and guide them unto the path of Hell!'

14:16-20 They sought a judgment; then was disappointed every stubborn tyrant -- beyond him Gehenna, and he is given to drink of oozing pus, which he gulps, and can scarce swallow, and death comes upon him from every side, yet he cannot die; and still beyond him is a harsh chastisement.

6:93 If thou couldst only see when the evildoers are in the agonies of death, and the angels are stretching out their hands: 'Give up your souls! Today you shall be recompensed with the chastisement of humiliation for what you said untruly about God, waxing proud against His signs.'

Narrated Abu Said Al Khudri: Allah's Apostle said, "On the Day of Resurrection Death will be brought forward in the shape of a black and white ram. Then a call maker will call, 'O people of Paradise!' Thereupon they will stretch their necks and look carefully. The caller will say, 'Do you know this?' They will say, 'Yes, this is Death.' By then all of them will have seen it. Then it will be announced again, 'O people of Hell!' They will stretch their necks and look carefully. The caller will say, 'Do you know this?' They will say, 'Yes, this is Death.' And by then all of them will have seen it. Then it (that ram) will be slaughtered and the caller will say, 'O people of Paradise! Eternity for you and no death. O people of Hell! Eternity for you and no death.'" Then the Prophet (peace be upon him) recited: "And warn them of the Day of distress when the case has been decided, while (now) they are in a state of carelessness (i.e. the people of the world) and they do not believe." (19.39)

Sahih Al-Bukhari – Book 60 Hadith 254

It was narrated that Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) said: "The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, 'What is between the two Trumpet-blasts will be forty.' Somebody asked, 'Forty days?' But I could not answer. Then he asked, 'Forty months?' But I could not answer. Then he asked, 'Forty years?' But I could not answer." Abu Hurayrah added, "Then

(after this period) Allah will send water from the sky and then the dead bodies will grow like vegetation grows. There is nothing of the human body that does not decay except one bone; that is the little bone at the end of the coccyx from which the human body will be recreated on the Day of Resurrection.”

(Narrated by al-Bukhaari, 4651; Muslim, 2955).