

Ramadan Immersion



Shaykh Yasir Fahmy

Introduction

- This course is about learning how to manage trials and tribulations that come our way
- As we are in Ramadan, we have to think about how to protect ourselves from the trials of dunya
- Prophet (SAW) would warn us about the trial of Dajjal, just like all the other prophets did
- The Prophet (SAW) warned about Dajjal so much that the sahaba thought that Dajjal would emerge from the palm trees next to them
- This is because Dajjal is a trial that represents many different trials: in faith, wealth, etc.
- We need to be more vigilant about how to protect ourselves from fitna

Fitna

- Allah tells us a lot about fitna in the Quran

وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَكُمْ خَلَائِفَ الْأَرْضِ وَرَفَعَ بَعْضَكُمْ فَوْقَ بَعْضٍ دَرَجَاتٍ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ فِي مَا آتَاكُمْ ۗ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ سَرِيعُ الْعِقَابِ وَإِنَّهُ لَغَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ

It is He who made you successors on the earth and raises some of you above others in rank, to test you through what He gives you. [Prophet], your Lord is swift in punishment, yet He is most forgiving and merciful.

وَأَعْلَمُوا أَنَّمَا أَمْوَالُكُمْ وَأَوْلَادُكُمْ فِتْنَةٌ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ

Be aware that your possessions and your children are only a test, and that there is a tremendous reward with God.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اسْتَجِيبُوا لِلَّهِ وَلِلرَّسُولِ إِذَا دَعَاكُمْ لِمَا يُحْيِيكُمْ
وَأَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَحُولُ بَيْنَ الْمَرْءِ وَقَلْبِهِ وَأَنَّهُ إِلَيْهِ تُحْشَرُونَ

O you who believe! Answer Allah (by obeying Him) and (His) Messenger when he (SAW) calls you to that which will give you life, and know that Allah comes in between a person and his heart (i.e. He prevents an evil person to decide anything). And verily to Him you shall (all) be gathered.

- We can be biologically alive, but spiritually dead
- This is so that we can live with purpose and we are not easily manipulated

وَاتَّقُوا فِتْنَةً لَا تُصِيبَنَّ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مِنْكُمْ خَاصَّةً وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ

Beware of discord that harms not only the wrongdoers among you: know that God is severe in His punishment.

- Have taqwa from unrestricted fitna - and don't think that these trials will only afflict those who have wronged themselves
 - Everyone will be afflicted, regardless of their piety
- The Prophet (SAW) said to seek refuge from trials, that which is hidden and that which is apparent
 - There is also "hidden" fitna - such as the fitna inside ourselves
 - There's all types of fitan
- Imam Bukhari has a chapter called "Fleeing from Fitan"
- Imam Jawhari: Fitna is test and trial, it's when you take gold and place it into the fire to assess the quality of the gold
- At its essence, fitna is to test the integrity of our faith
 - It exposes our realities

- Prophet (SAW) said about Abu Bakr to the sahaba: Don't think that he outdid you in prayers and fasts - however, he has outdone you with something that settled in his heart. It is faith.
 - It was Abu Bakr's lack of hesitation in doing good, the strength of his iman in his heart that made him who he was
 - Abu Bakr was tested throughout his life, and it showed who he was
- We need to have this understanding of fitna as we study it.

Definition of Fitna in the Qur'an

- Surah Baqarah

وَالْفِتْنَةُ أَكْبَرُ مِنَ الْقَتْلِ

- Here fitna refers to shirk

- Surah Aali 'Imran

فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ زَيْغٌ فَيَتَّبِعُونَ مَا تَشَبَهَ مِنْهُ ابْتِغَاءَ الْفِتْنَةِ وَابْتِغَاءَ تَأْوِيلِهِ

- Here fitna refers to kufr, or disbelief
- The one who desires fitna is the one who refuses to submit to the Book of Allah (SWT)
- When someone looks for multiple angles of the Qur'an, trying to redefine what is clearly known, it causes fitna

- Surah Ankabut

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَنْ يَقُولُ آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ فَإِذَا أُوذِيَ فِي اللَّهِ جَعَلَ فِتْنَةَ النَّاسِ كَعَذَابِ اللَّهِ

- Fitna can also come with the meaning of punishment
- This is describing people who exaggerate the level of the fitna when people hurt them - they say that it is the punishment of Allah
- We shouldn't exaggerate our own pain and problems in this way, thinking that our pain specifically is unbearable and unique

- Surah Tawba

أَلَا فِي الْفِتْنَةِ سَقَطُوا

- Fitna can also refer to itim, or sin

- Surah Dhariyat

ذُوقُوا فِتْنَتَكُمْ هَذَا الَّذِي كُنْتُمْ بِهِ تَسْتَعْجِلُونَ

- Allah says to taste the punishment (here, in the word fitna)

- Surah Nisa

إِنْ خِفْتُمْ أَنْ يَفْتِنَكُمْ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا

- Fitna can also refer to qatl, or killing

وَإِنْ كَادُوا لَيَفْتِنُونَكَ عَنِ الَّذِي أُوحِيَنا إِلَيْكَ

- Fitna can be warding people off the straight path
- This is a severe fitna during our time
- Oftentimes, this fitna can be attractive

- Surah Maidah

وَمَنْ يُرِدِ اللَّهُ فِتْنَتَهُ فَلَنْ تَمْلِكَ لَهُ، مِنْ اللَّهِ شَيْءٌ

- Fitna in this ayah refers to misguidance and confusion
- Istidraj is one of the worst punishments Allah can put upon someone - it's when Allah gives someone lots of time to enjoy until they forget themselves
- Allah constantly gives us reminders out of His mercy, we need to take heed

- Fitna can also mean ghafla, or heedlessness
- Fitna can mean 'ibra, or lesson

The Manifestation of Fitna

- Prophet (SAW) talks about times that fitna will come like the darkest of night
 - It will cause confusion
 - The forbearant person will become dazed and confused
 - The person who is trustworthy will not be trusted and the one who is not trustworthy will be trusted
 - The truth can become falsehood and falsehood can become truth in the eyes of people
 - A person can wake as a believer and sleep as a disbeliever
 - We need to be aware of this. We can't take Islam for granted or become complacent
 - This person will sell their din for a cheap piece of dunya
- The Prophet (SAW) again speaks about times of fitna - You will see time getting quicker, knowledge will be stripped, and you will see the manifestation of fitan. Miserliness and selfishness will become standard, and you will see a lot of killing.
 - In our age, narcissism is a huge fitna
- Usama ibn Zaid narrates the Prophet (SAW) saying (as he was sitting with the sahaba): Do you see what I see? The sahaba replied, "no". Prophet (SAW) said: I see the fitna falling on your homes just like drops of water.
 - This means that the fitna will touch everyone's homes
- The wellness of the ummah was placed in the beginning, but the end of the ummah will face massive trials. Each fitna that comes makes the previous one look small.
 - The believer must be aware and vigilant