

Lesson 16: WHAT ARE PARADISE AND HELL?

We have learned that on the Day of Judgement, the lives of the human race will be scrutinized and assessed by Allah سبحانه وتعالى. All the good and bad they did on earth will be known. Those who did good, and those whom Allah سبحانه وتعالى may forgive, will enter Paradise, and the wrong-doers, whom Allah سبحانه وتعالى does not forgive, will enter Hell.

What is Paradise? Rasulallah ﷺ said that it is beyond anything that we can imagine. Allah سبحانه وتعالى has described it in the Qur'an as a beautiful Garden, in which people will find all the good things that they like best: shady trees, rivers, flowers, beautiful houses and wonderful things to eat and drink, and the company of loved ones. Everything will be a source of peace and happiness; being so close to Allah سبحانه وتعالى Himself will be the greatest joy.

What is Hell? It is described in the Qur'an as a place of fire and heat, or of terrible cold. The people of Hell will be in constant pain. They will blame each other for their condemnation. They will know that their greatest folly was that they rejected Allah سبحانه وتعالى and on that Day, He will reject them.

Here is one of many verses of the Qur'an that speaks about the Hereafter:

تَرَى الظَّالِمِينَ مُشْفِقِينَ مِمَّا كَسَبُوا وَهُوَ وَاقِعٌ
بِهِمْ وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ فِي رَوْضَاتِ
الْجَنَّاتِ لَهُمْ مَا يَشَاءُونَ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ ذَلِكَ هُوَ الْفَضْلُ
الْكَبِيرُ ﴿٢٢﴾

You will see the evil-doers fearful of that which they have earned, and it will surely befall them; While those who believed and did good works (will be) in the flowering meadows of the Garden, having what they wish from their Lord. This is the great preferment.

(Ash-Shura 42:22)

Which would you rather enter: Paradise or Hell? The people who choose Paradise sincerely believe in Allah سبحانه وتعالى and do as much good as they can to win His pleasure. The people destined for Hell earn His anger by disregarding His message and His warnings. May Allah سبحانه وتعالى guide us on the right path!