Synopsis of Friday Sermon
Ameer Mustapha Elturk

In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Synopsis of the Friday Sermon delivered by Ameer Mustapha Elturk on August 19, 2016:

Dawah with Insight – Part 17:
Signs of the Day of Judgment (Part B)

“It is God who has sent down the Book in Truth and (also) the Balance. You never know, the Hour may well be near. Those who do not believe in it seek that it should come soon, while the believers are fearful of it and know that it is the Truth. Unquestionably, those who dispute about the Hour have gone far, far astray.” (Fatir, 42:17,18)

The Prophet (SAW) imparted numerous teachings regarding the signs of the Day of Judgment. An entire chapter is dedicated to such teachings in most books of ahadith under the heading, “Kitab al-Fitan, The Book of Trials.” Many of the signs have come and gone while some are currently occurring and will continue to occur. There are also trials known as “the Major Signs” that have yet to occur.

Sincere believers are those who mend their way and are critical of the wrong trends of the society that reflect many of the signs of the Last Hour. Some of the signs below were previously mentioned and there are others worth mentioning before discussing the major signs.

The appearance of the false messiahs

Abu Hurairah reported that the Prophet (SAW) once said, “The hour will not come until nearly thirty false messiahs (dajjals) appear, each one claiming to be a messenger of Allah.” Another narration related by Thawban further explains that, “There will be 30 dajjals among my Ummah. Each one will claim that he is a prophet; but I am the last of the Prophets and there will be no prophet after me.”

Among such self-proclaimed prophets is Musailamah bin Habib known as Musailamah al-Kaddab, or Musailamah the Liar. He was the first one to claim prophethood during the time of the Prophet (SAW). Tulayha was another one as well as Sajah al-Kahinah. Before she declared prophethood she had a reputation of being a soothsayer, thus Sajah al-Kahinah or Sajah the Soothsayer. She had a large following. Another person by the name of Aswad Ansi from the al- Ansi family, better known as Abhala bin Ka'b who lived in Yemen, proclaimed his prophethood towards the end of the Prophet’s life.

Among the recent false messiahs is Mirza Husayn Ali known as Baha’ullah. He is the founder of the Baha’i faith founded in the 19th century in Persia. He claimed to be a messenger from God and alleged that he is the prophetic fulfillment of Babism. Babism is from “Bab,” the title Bab or the “Gate.” He was opposed by the clergy and executed at the age of 30. His followers were also killed. The Baha’i World Center or headquarters and shrine is near Acre, Israel.

Similarly, Mirzā Ghulām Ahmad (d. 1908) of Indian origin claimed to have been divinely appointed as the promised Messiah and Mahdi. He is the founder of the Ahmadiyyah movement. The Ahmadiyyah movement was founded in Punjab, British India in Qadian. The followers of the movement are known as Qadianis. The 1974 Declaration of Muslim World League among other fiqh councils declared them a non-Muslim minority, by stating, “All the Muslim countries must impose restrictions on the activities of the claimant of Prophethood Mirza Ghulam Ahmed Qadiani’s followers; must declare them a non-Muslim minority must not entrust them with any post of responsibility in any Muslim country.” Mirza Gulam Ahmad would often refer to himself as nabi, prophet and rasool, messenger when in fact Muhammad (SAW) is the seal of all prophets as well as all messengers of God.

There are many others who professed prophethood; the last of these false messiahs yet to come is al-Dajjal. The Prophet (SAW) informs, “Verily by Allah, the Last Hour will not come until thirty dajjals will appear and the final one will be the one-eyed false messiah.” This is considered to be one of the major signs.

Honesty will be lost and power and authority will be given to the wrong people

In his reply to a question about the Hour, the Prophet (SAW) said, “When the affair is entrusted to the wrong people, then expect the Hour.” While the Prophet (SAW) was addressing a gathering, a Bedouin came and asked him, “When will the Hour come.” The Prophet (SAW) ignored
him until he finished his talk. He then answered the Bedouin. “When honesty is lost then wait for the Hour.” The Bedouin enquired, “How will that be lost?” The Prophet (SAW) replied “When the power or authority comes in the hands of unfit persons, then wait for the Hour.”

It is a known fact, to a large degree, that the affairs of Muslims in Muslim lands are in the hands of corrupt leaders. They have forsaken the trust of authority Allah (SWT) entrusted them with. They neither serve the interest of their people nor the interest of Islam. In truth, they serve the interest of imperial powers. This condition can only be reversed when Muslims end the pursuit of dunya (the world of matter) and focus on the world to come serving the Master, Allah (SWT) and His cause.

The Prophet (SAW) also prophesized our present condition. He (SAW) says, “Soon the nations will gather against you, just as people are called to a feast.” He was asked, “Is it because we will be few at that time, O Messenger of Allah?” The Prophet (SAW) replied, “On the other hand, at that time you will be numerous, however, you will be (useless,) like the scum of the sea. And surely, Allah will remove the fear from the hearts of your enemies and He will certainly throw wahn into your hearts.” Someone asked, “And what is wahn O Messenger of Allah?” The Prophet replied, “Love of dunya and hatred of death.”

As we have forsaken our obligations and duties toward Allah and the deen in pursuit of the dunya, Allah (SWT) allowed our enemies to attack us, usurp our rich resources and exploit the corrupt Muslim leaders. The trust or amanah, is indeed in the wrong hands. We are undoubtedly closer to the Hour than one may think and unless we reform ourselves and our families and dedicate our lives for the sake of Allah and Islam, our condition will only worsen.

The following hadith[2] These statistics are nothing but a confirmation of the Prophet’s prophecy, “Many children will be born out of wedlock.”

Another prophecy is that “Musical instruments (music), pride and arrogance as well as intoxication (drinking, drugs, etc.) will be widespread.” Prophecy fulfilled. In another prediction, the Prophet (SAW) said, “People from my ummah will drink (wine-khamr, alcoholic drinks) and call it a different name (spirits), musical instruments and female singers will be pounded on their heads. God would cause the earth to swallow some and turn others into apes and pigs.”

No one can argue the impermissibility of alcoholic beverages as well as any kinds of drugs or intoxication that becloud the mind. Music on the other hand, is, admittedly, an ambiguous subject regarding halal and haram. Regardless of which opinion one follows and we do need to respect all opinions, the message regarding music in the above prediction, and God knows best, refers to listening to very loud music, loud enough to deafen one’s ears, be it in the car, in stadiums or through headphones where people sway their heads back and forth in the rhythm of super loud music that has a profound effect on the person and culture. Unfortunately, this culture has invaded the entire human race through the innovations of today’s gadgets. Such gadgets are like a double-edged-sword, they can have favorable and unfavorable consequences.

The triad, music, sex and drugs have a tendency to encapsulate humans inside the three sides of the triangle and turn them into mere animals, even worse than animals, i.e. modesty disappears, while pride and arrogance sets in.

The Prophet (SAW) also predicted the rise of, “The civilization that destroys the world and the destruction of (real) civilization.” Climate change is among the leading factors contributing to the destruction of the world. It appears that all natural ecosystems, including forests, oceans, lakes, rivers, etc. are threatened. Contamination and pollution are affecting the water, land and air we breathe. This civilization of the destruction of the world began with the emergence of the industrial revolution that took place a couple of centuries ago. Another threat that may contribute to the destruction of the world is nuclear weapons and nuclear technology. God forbid, we engage in nuclear Armageddon, the radiation of which would cause millions of deaths. Lands would become contaminated and unfit for agriculture. Billions of people would die from famine. Human civilization would never be able to recover. These are all man-made disasters that may contribute to the destruction of the world.

All these signs have or are occurring and are clear indications of the Hour. The Hour is real and near. May Allah (SWT) protect us and our children from such trials, ameen.

[1] Although the hadith is graded as a weak hadith, the subjects mentioned can be traced in other hadiths