

The Living Imam



The Qur'an on the rule of Imam al-Mahdi (a)

Allah has promised those of you who believe and do good deeds that He will surely make them successors on the earth, the way He caused those who were before them to succeed (others). And He will establish for them the religion which He has approved for them and will give them in exchange safety after their fear (so that) "they will worship Me, and will not associate anything with Me". (24:55)

This verse talks about the rule of Imam al-Mahdi (a) on earth. Believers will establish themselves on earth and become rulers with the Imam. During this time the following events will take place:

1. Establishment of Allah's rule on Earth.
2. Spreading of Allah's true religion on Earth
3. Overcoming of all evil and tyranny.
4. Peace and security will prevail on Earth.
5. Allah alone will be worshipped throughout the Earth.

There is a lot of evil and oppression in the world today. Many believers suffer great difficulties and have to live under the rule of tyrant rulers. There is little peace and security in the world. Constant wars, struggles for power, persecutions and massacres have brought terror into the hearts of many. All this will come to an end when the rule of Allah will be established, under His representative, the twelfth Imam.

Imam Zaynul `Abidin (a) says that the reference in this verse is to the period when the last one of the holy Imams will rule the earth. In a hadith he says: *By Allah, it is (about) our Shiahs. Allah will do that for them at the hands of a man from among us, and he is the Mahdi of this Ummah. Allah will fill the earth with justice and peace the way it was filled with oppression and evil.*

Another verse of the Holy Qur'an says:

And We intend to bestow (our) favor upon those who were deemed weak in the land, and to make them the Imams (leaders of mankind) and to make them heirs (28:5)

This verse gives good news of the victory of good over evil. Those who were weak and oppressed will one day be given the chance to be leaders on earth. This verse was revealed about the Banu Israel who were suffering under the oppression of Fir`awn. It gave them the good news that they would be released from his rule. According to the Masumeen (a) the verse also refers to the future when those who are oppressed on earth. Imam Ali (a) says about this verse; *They are the family of Muhammad (s). Allah will cause their Mahdi to appear, and He will give them honor and dignity, and humiliate and defeat their enemies.* In another hadith, Imam Zaynul `Abidin (a) says: *By the One who has sent Muhammad (s) as a Warner and Bearer of good news, the virtuous among us the Ahlul bayt and their Shiahs, are like Musa and his followers. And our enemies and their followers are in the position of Fir`awn and his followers.*

Shaykh Tusi, a great Shia Scholar, writes that Imam Ali (a) said: Those who became the victims of oppression are the family of the Prophet (s) and from whom Allah will cause the Mahdi to rise so that he will hold them in esteem and cause their enemies to be disgraced.