

Its pillars are six¹: to have *eemaan*(to truly believe) in Allaah, His Angels, His Books, His Messengers, the Last Day and that you truly believe in Pre-Decree (*al-qadr*), its good and its evil.

The Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan *hafidhahullaah* mentions in his explanation:

Q13. That the angels² :

- a) were created by Aadam *'alaihissalaam*
- b) were created to worship Allaah alone
- c) were created to carry out the commands of Allaah ³
- d) sometimes disobey Allaah but then they immediately make *tawbah*

Answers: b) c)

Q14. That Jibreel:

- a) is the only angel who has free will to obey and disobey Allaah as he wishes
- b) is entrusted with bringing the rain for the crops ⁴
- c) is *ar rooh ul ameen* ⁵
- d) is *al 'Aleem al Hakeem*

¹ Shaykh al Fawzaan comments in his explanation of al Usool uth Thalaathah:

His saying: Its pillars are six...

Meaning its supports which it is established upon and if they are absent or if one of them is absent, then it (eemaan) will be absent.

² Shaykh al Fawzaan comments in his explanation of al Usool uth Thalaathah:

Malaa-ikah (angels) is the plural of malak, and its origin was mal-ak (one sent as a messenger) which was made easier to pronounce and said as malak.

³ Shaykh al Fawzaan comments in his explanation of al Usool uth Thalaathah:

And they are of different types, every type has a duty with which it is entrusted and which it carries out. They do not disobey Allaah with regards to that with which He commands them and they do whatever they are ordered to.

⁴ Shaykh al Fawzaan comments in his explanation of al Usool uth Thalaathah:

So from them is he who is entrusted with the Revelation, and he is Jibreel 'alaihissalaam and he is the noblest of the angels.

⁵ Shaykh al Fawzaan comments in his explanation of al Usool uth Thalaathah:

He (Jibreel) is al rooh ul ameen (the trustworthy spirit) and shadeed ul quwwah (mighty in strength).

Answer: c)

Q15. That the 'Arsh (Throne) of Allaah:

- a) is one of Allaah's Attributes
- b) is *ghayr makhlooq* (not created)
- c) is carried by angels ⁶
- d) is the most tremendous of the created things ⁷

Answers: c) d)

Q16. That from the angels:

- a) are those who have 600 wings, such as Jibreel
- b) is Israaeel who is entrusted with the rain and the crops ⁸
- c) is Mikaaeel who is entrusted with blowing the horn ⁹

⁶ Shaykh al Fawzaan comments in his explanation of al Usool uth Thalaathah:

(Allaah, the Most High, says:

Those who bear the Throne and those who are around it.

Soorah Ghaafir (40) aayah 7

He, the Most High, said:

And the angels will be at its edges (of the sky) and eight angels on that Day will bear the Throne of your Lord.

Soorah al Haaqqah (69) aayah 17

⁷ Shaykh al Fawzaan comments in his explanation of al Usool uth Thalaathah:

And no one knows its greatness except Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic. It will be carried by the angels and this is a proof for the tremendous size of the angels and their great strength and their nature.

⁸ Shaykh al Fawzaan comments in his explanation of al Usool uth Thalaathah:

And from them (the angels) are those who are entrusted with the raindrops and the plants and he is Meekaa-eel.

⁹ Shaykh al Fawzaan comments in his explanation of al Usool uth Thalaathah:

And from them (the angels) are those who are entrusted with blowing the Horn and he is Israafeel. He will blow the Horn and everything will perish. He, the Most High, said:

And the Horn will be blown and whoever is in the Heavens and whoever is upon the Earth will swoon, except for whomever Allaah wishes...

Soorah az Zumar (39) aayah 68

Then it will be blown for a second time and the souls will return to their bodies.

then it will be blown again and they (the souls) will be standing, looking on.

Soorah az Zumar (39) aayah 68

- d) are Munkar and Nakeer who are entrusted with taking the souls at the time of death ¹⁰
- e) are those who are entrusted with the fetuses in the wombs ¹¹
- f) are those who are entrusted with recording the actions of the children of Aadam ¹²

Answer: a) e) f)

Q17. That those who record the deeds of the human being:

- a) only write down his good deeds
- b) only come together at the times of the fajr and 'ishaa prayer ¹³

The souls will fly from the 'qarn', which is the Horn, back to their bodies and they will enter into them and they will come to life by the permission of Allaah. Then they will proceed to the Mahshar (gathering place).

¹⁰ Shaykh al Fawzaan comments in his explanation of al Usool uth Thalaathah:

And from them (the angels) are those who are entrusted with taking the souls at the end of their lifespans, and he is the Angel of Death.

Say: the Angel of Death who has been entrusted with you will take your souls. Then you will be returned to your Lord.

Soorah as Sajdah (32) aayah 11

And he has with him assistants from the angels:

Our Messengers (from the Angels) take his soul and they do not neglect their duty.

Soorah al An'aam (6) aayah 61

¹¹ Shaykh al Fawzaan comments in his explanation of al Usool uth Thalaathah:

And from them (the angels) are those who are entrusted with the fetuses in the wombs. Allaah's Messenger sall Allaahu 'alaihi wa sallam said:

Each one of you, his creation is brought together in the abdomen of his mother for forty days as a nutfah (drop) then he will be an 'alaqah (clinging clot) for the like of that. Then he will be a mudgah (piece of flesh) for the like of that. Then the angel is sent to him. (The hadeeth).

[Reported by al Bukhaaree (3208) and Muslim from the hadeeth of 'Abdullaah ibn Mas'ood radi Allaahu 'anhu]

¹² Shaykh al Fawzaan comments in his explanation of al Usool uth Thalaathah:

And from them (the angels) are those who are entrusted with recording the deeds of the descendants of Aadam. He, the Most High, said:

And there are watchers over you, honourable scribes writing down (your deeds).

Soorah al Infitaar (82) aayaat 10 to 11

¹³ Shaykh al Fawzaan comments in his explanation of al Usool uth Thalaathah:

They stay with you throughout the night and the day. He sall Allaahu 'alaihi wa sallam said:

The angels of the night and of the day come to you in succession.

[Reported by al Bukhaaree (555) and Muslim from the hadeeth of Aboo Hurayrah radi Allaahu 'anhu]

- c) comprise one angel and one shaytaan for each human being
- d) none of the above

Answer: d)

Q18. That there are angels who protect the human being from:

- a) snakes ¹⁴
- b) dangerous matters¹⁵
- c) the difficulties which Allaah has decreed for that person
- d) dying at the time when Allaah had decreed that the person die ¹⁶

Answers: a) b)

Q19. That there are angels:

- a) entrusted with carrying out the commands of Allaah
- b) which are visible to all humans at all times
- c) who seek out the gatherings where Allaah's Book is being studied ¹⁷
- d) who disobey Allaah at certain times of the year

And they gather together at the Fajr prayer and the 'Asr prayer and they bear witness with Allaah for those people who pray.

¹⁴ Shaykh al Fawzaan comments in his explanation of al Usool uth Thalaathah:

Allaah said about them:

There are angels guarding him in succession from in front of him and from behind him by the Command of Allaah.

Soorah ar Ra'd (13) aayah 11

¹⁵ Shaykh al Fawzaan comments in his explanation of al Usool uth Thalaathah:

And from them (the angels) are those who are entrusted with guarding Banoo Aadam from disagreeable things. They guard them from calamities and from enemies and from creatures, from wild animals and from serpents and snakes. For as long as he lives he has angels guarding him from dangerous things.

¹⁶ Shaykh al Fawzaan comments in his explanation of al Usool uth Thalaathah:

So when his lifetime comes to an end then they (the protecting angels) leave him and that which Allaah has decreed to occur, be it death or being struck by something which leads to death, occurs.

¹⁷ Shaykh al Fawzaan comments in his explanation of al Usool uth Thalaathah:

Allaah's Messenger sall Allaahu 'alaihi wa sallam said:

No people gather in a house from the houses of Allaah reciting the Book of Allaah and studying it amongst them except that tranquility descends upon them and mercy covers them and the angels encircle them with their wings.

[Reported by Muslim (2699) from the hadeeth of Aboo Hurayrah radi Allaahu 'anhu]

Answers: a) c)

Q20. That the information which we have about the angels:

- a) is almost as much as Allaah knows about the angels ¹⁸
- b) is taken from the texts of the Qur'aan only
- c) is taken from the texts of the Qur'aan and the authentic Sunnah
- d) none of the above

Answer: c)

Q21. That the person who denies the existence of the angels:

- a) sometimes uses the excuse that whatever cannot be seen does not exist
- b) is a kaafir ¹⁹
- c) has denied one of the aspects of the *ghayb* (hidden and unseen)
- d) is an evil heretic

Answers: all of them

Q22. That it is permissible to say that the angels are:

- a) made of light
- b) metaphorical ideas, and not real beings ²⁰

¹⁸ Shaykh al Fawzaan comments in his explanation of al Usool uth Thalaathah:

And no one knows all of the angels and their types and their characteristics except for Allaah. However what occurs in the texts of the Qur'aan and the authentic prophetic ahaadeeth, then we affirm it and we believe it.

And whatever has not been mentioned to us then we withhold from it and we do not delve into it because this is from the 'ilm ul ghayb (the knowledge of the hidden and unseen) which we do not enter into except with a proof.

¹⁹ Shaykh al Fawzaan comments in his explanation of al Usool uth Thalaathah:

So whoever denies the angels and says, "There are no angels because we do not see them", then this person will be a kaafir (disbeliever), a mulhid (apostate), a zindeeq (a heretic) - and Allaah's refuge is sought - because he does not believe in the ghayb.

²⁰ Shaykh al Fawzaan comments in his explanation of al Usool uth Thalaathah:

And likewise the person who interprets away the angels and says, "The angels are just abstract and they are not beings with bodies. They are just thoughts which occur to the person. If they are good thoughts, they are angels and if they are evil promptings then they are devils." Then this is a saying involving apostasy - and Allaah's refuge is sought.

And regrettably this is found in "Tafseer ul Manaar, quoted by Muhammad Rasheed Ridaa from his shaykh, Muhammad 'Abdah.

This is speech of the philosophers and it is false and futile. Whoever truly holds it as his creed and belief then he is a kaafir . However we hope that he (Muhammad Rasheed Ridaa) was just quoting and he did not actually believe it; but he quoted it without criticism and this is dangerous.

- c) the good thoughts that occur to a human being
- d) the same as the prophets

Answer: a)

Q23. That the person takes his creed and beliefs about Allaah and the angels:

- a) from the books of the philosophers
- b) from the Book and the Sunnah
- c) from books of the pure, unadulterated 'aqeedah such as *Ihya' uloom id deen* ²¹
- d) from the angels themselves

Answers: b)

Q24. That the angels:

- a) have no appearance at all
- b) can never resemble a human
- c) can never be seen by a human
- d) may be visible to humans at certain times ²²

Answer: d)

Q25. That a human will see an angel:

- a) at the time of his birth
- b) at the time of his death ²³

²¹ Shaykh al Fawzaan comments in his explanation of al Usool uth Thalaathah:

And the book 'Ihya' uloom id deen' of al Ghazzaalee contains terrible things and contains calamitous things. And even if it contains something from good and benefits, it contains a great deal of things which can cause destruction and a great deal of poison. And it is a book which is mixed up. Its evil is more than its good.

Therefore it is not befitting that the beginner (in gaining knowledge) or the common person should look into it unless he has knowledge and the ability to distinguish between the Truth and falsehood.

²² Shaykh al Fawzaan comments in his explanation of al Usool uth Thalaathah:

And the angels can take on different forms which Allaah gives them the ability to take on. Therefore Jibreel 'alaihissalaam came to the Prophet sall Allaahu 'alaihi wa sallam in the form of a man.

So Allaah gives them the ability to take forms for the benefit of the descendents of Aadam because the descendents of Aadam are not able to see the angels in the form upon which Allaah created them.

²³ Shaykh al Fawzaan comments in his explanation of al Usool uth Thalaathah:

And the angels are not seen in their true forms except at the time of punishment. He, the Most High, said:

On the Day when they will see the angels, there will be no glad tidings on that Day for the criminals.

- c) at the time when his marriage contract is signed
- d) when he recites Soorah al Faatihah

Answer: b)

Q26. That the relation between the angels and Allaah is that they are His:

- a) children ²⁴
- b) creation
- c) parents
- d) prophets' children

Answer: b)

Soorah al Furqaan (25) aayah 22

*And at death, the person will see them. He will see the angels of death.
However in this world and whilst he is alive, he does not see them because he is not able to see them.*

²⁴ Shaykh al Fawzaan comments in his explanation of al Usool uth Thalaathah:

*And the disbelievers believed that the angels were the daughters of Allaah.
He, the Most High, said:*

And they declared the angels who are servants of *ar Rahman* (the Most Merciful) to be females. Did they witness their creation? Their testimony will be written and they will be questioned about it.

Soorah az Zukhruf (43) aayah 19