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RUKJAI SUPANGOMUT : A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF DOCTRINES AND ATTITUDES ON THE END OF THE WORLD IN BUDDHISM AND ISLAM : A CASE STUDY OF BUDDHISTS AND MUSLIMS IN BANGKOK. THESIS ADVISORS : PARICHART SUWANBUBBHA, P.h.D., PICHET KALAMAKASAIT, M.A., SARINTHIP SATIRASILAPIN, M.A., 200 PAGES, ISBN 974-664-969-8.

The purpose of this research was to comparatively study the end of the world in Buddhism and Islam, the attitudes on the end of the world between Buddhist scholars and Muslim scholars, and the students of Buddhists and Muslims in Bangkok.

The research results show that the doctrines on the end of the world in Buddhism and Islam have similarities and differences. Buddhism explains the world and the end of the world in terms of a cycle, i.e., arising, maintaining and subsiding. So, the world according to Buddhism must be according to the process of nature, whereas, Islam has the view that the world and the end of world is up to the will of God. The aim of the Buddhist doctrines is to manifest principles of Three Common Characteristics (Tilakkhana). The aim of Islamic doctrines is to manifest the unity of God. However, both Buddhism and Islam stress the development of morality for the well being of life to achieve the ultimate goal of the religions.

From the field research, it was found that the attitudes of religious scholars are more harmonious with their own doctrine than the students of the Buddhist group, whereas, Muslim religious scholars and the students of the Muslim group are remarkably indifferent in their own doctrine. The attitudes of the Muslim religious scholars and students of Islam are more harmonious than those of the Buddhist religious scholars and students of Buddhism. The benefit gained is the accurate knowledge about the end of the world in both religions which can lead to understanding the way to well practice according to the principles of religion.