

SURAH-1

AL-FATIHAH

Surah Al-Fatihah is the first Surah of Allah's book, the Quran. It is called Al-Fatihah because it is the opening of the Qur'an. It was revealed at Makkah and is one of the earliest revelations. The exact date or year of its revelation is not known but it is certain that it was revealed within two or three years of the start of Muhammad's mission as messenger of Allah. According to some Traditions, it was the first complete Surah revealed to the Holy Prophet (PBUH) as before it only some verses of Surah Al-Alaq, Al-Muzzammil and Al-Muddaththir had been revealed.

There are various names of this Surah. Some of them are: Fatihatul-Kitab which means the opening of the Book; Suratul-Salat because recitation of it is essential to every prayer whether performed in public or in private; Suratul-Du'a which means the chapter of supplication as it is a prayer to the Lord of the Universe; Umul-Kitab i.e. the essence of the Book (the Qur'an); Surah Al-Hamd as it is the Praise of God; Surah Al-Shifa because it is healing for diseases especially of spiritual and moral. Allah has spoken of it as Sab-am-minal-massanii (Al-Qur'an 15:87) i.e. the seven oft repeated verses because its seven verses are constantly repeated by every Muslim in his prayers.

This Surah is recited at least seventeen times by a Muslim in his five obligatory daily prayers, and if all the compulsory and optional rakats of the prayers are counted, then it is recited forty four times a day. Thus it is more important for a Muslim than Lord's Prayer is for a Christian. It is an essential part of worship for the followers of Islam and no solemn contract or transaction is considered complete without its recitation.

Prayer is the heart of every faith but a man hardly knows how to pray to his Lord. So the Lord Himself has taught the man this prayer. It has been aptly remarked by an eminent scholar of the Qur'an that the servant prays to God to show him guidance and God places the whole of the Qur'an before him in answer to his prayer for his guidance in every activity of life.

This Surah comprises seven verses only. But despite being short it contains the gist of the teachings of the Qur'an. According to scholars and the commentators, the teachings of the Qur'an basically revolve around three subjects, namely: The Tawheed (Oneness of God) i.e. that the Lord of all the creatures and of the whole universe is Allah alone Who is One God, beside whom there is no God and so He alone should be worshiped; the Risalah (the Prophethood) i.e. Allah sends Prophets for guidance of man and reveals books for this purpose; and Hereafter, i.e. the Day of

Judgement which would come when the man would be raised to life after his death and would be rewarded for his good deeds and punished for his bad deeds. All these three subjects have been briefly dealt with or at least touched upon in this Surah. First three verses of this Surah praise Allah and describe His greatest virtues of being Sustainer-Lord of all the universe, the Beneficent, the Most Merciful and the Master of the Day of Judgment. In the fourth verse the believers make covenant with Allah that Him Alone they worship and that Him Alone they invoke for help. In the remaining verses they pray to Him for right guidance.

According to some authentic Traditions, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is reported to have said: "Al-Fatihah is the Surah the like of which nothing has been revealed in the Torah, the Gospel and the Psalms". He is also reported to have said: "I have been given two lights which have not been given to any Prophet before me and those are Surah Al-Fatihah and Surah Al-Baqarah."

It has been reported by Abu Saeed Bin Al-Mu'alla that the Prophet said to me: I will teach you the greatest Surah in the Qur'an before you leave the Mosque. He held my hand and when he was about to leave the Mosque I Said: O messenger of Allah, you said: I will teach you the greatest Surah in the Qur'an. He said: Yes. It is the seven oft repeated verses (the Al-Fatihah) and the glorious Qur'an that I was given (Musnad Ahmad).

Abu Saeed Al-Khudri has narrated the story of a companion who used Al-Fatihah as a remedy to cure a tribal chief who was bitten by a scorpion or a snake. When it was mentioned to the Prophet, he said: How did he know that it is a Ruqyah? The Prophet thus approved this virtue of Al-Fatihah that it is Ruqyah (the cure of diseases).

Lesson-1: Prayer to Allah

1. In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful.
2. All praise is only for Allah, the Lord of the universe.
3. The Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful.
4. Master of the Day of Judgment.
5. (O Lord!) You alone we worship and You alone we call for help.
6. Guide us to the right path.
7. Path of those upon whom You have bestowed Your favours. Not of those who earned Your wrath nor of those who went astray.

آيَاتُهَا ١١ سُوْرَةُ الْفَاتِحَةِ مَكِّيَّةٌ وَنُوعُهَا

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ①

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ②

الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ③

مَلِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ ④

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ ⑤

اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ⑥

صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ

عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ ⑦