

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

# Tafseer ul-Quran Course

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Understand Al-Qur'an The Easy Way (UK)

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Surah Al-Fatiha - Part 1

سُورَةُ الْفَاتِحَةِ

# Main Topics Covered in The Surah

- ❑ Name of the Surah
- ❑ Other Names of Surah al-Fatihah
- ❑ Place and Period of Revelation
- ❑ Theme and Subject Matter
- ❑ Ahadith related to the Surah
- ❑ Characteristics of the Surah
- ❑ Tafseer and Taweel
- ❑ Linguistic Miracles
- ❑ Summary of this Surah
- ❑ Action Plan

# Name of the Surah

- ❑ This Surah is called al-Fatiha, meaning, the Opener - i.e. Opener of the Book.
- ❑ This Surah has 7 Ayahs and 29 words.
- ❑ Fatihah is that which opens a subject or a book or any other thing. In other words, al-Fatihah is a sort of preface.
- ❑ This Surah possesses a number of merits such as the Qur'an begins with it; the prayers (Salah) begins with it; and many more that we will learn later (in sha Allah).

# Other Names Surah al-Fatiha

- ❑ Fatihah-ul-Kitaab – Opening of the Book
- ❑ Umm-ul-Qur'an – Essence of the Qur'an
- ❑ Umm-ul-Kitab – Essence of the Book
- ❑ Surat-ul-Kanzi – Surah of Treasure
- ❑ Surat-ul-Hamdi – Surah of Praise
- ❑ Surat-ush-Shukri – Surah of Thanking
- ❑ Surat-ut-Du'ai – Surah of Prayer
- ❑ Surat-ush-Shifai – Surah of Healing
- ❑ Surat-us-Salati – Surah of Prayer
- ❑ As-saba-ul-Masani – Seven often Repeated (Ayaat)

# Place and Period of Revelation

- ❑ This is one of the earliest Surahs to be revealed to our beloved Prophet Muhammad (sas) in his Makkan life.
- ❑ As a matter of fact, we learn from authentic traditions that this Surah was the first complete Surah which was revealed to our Prophet (sas).
- ❑ Before this, only a few Ayaat were revealed which form parts of Surah Alaq, Muzzammil and Muddaththir.

# Theme & Subject Matter

- ❑ This Surah is in fact a Du'a which Allah (swt) taught to all those who want to start the study of His book.
- ❑ It has been placed at the very beginning of the Book to teach this lesson to the reader – ‘If you sincerely want to benefit from the Qur'an, you should offer this Du'a to the Lord of the Universe’.
- ❑ This preface is meant to create a strong desire in the heart of the reader to seek guidance from the Lord of the Universe, Who alone can grant it.

# Theme & Subject Matter

- Al-Fatihah teaches man:
  - to recognise the fact that Allah (swt) is the source of all knowledge;
  - to ask for guidance to the straight path;
  - to study the Qur'an with the positive attitude of a seeker of truth.
- We should, therefore, begin the study of the Qur'an with a Du'a to Allah for guidance.
- From this theme, it becomes clear that the real relation between al-Fatihah and the Qur'an is not that of an introduction to a book but that of a Du'a and its answer.
- Al-Fatihah is the Du'a from the servant and the rest of the Qur'an is the answer from Allah (swt) to his Du'a.

# Ahadith related to the Surah

## Hadith Qudsi - Muslim : Hadith 775

1. Abu Hurairah (ra) heard the Messenger of Allah (sas) declare that “Allah the Exalted has said: I have divided this Surah into two halves between Me and My slave, and My slave will receive what he asks for.

When the slave says: **الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ** ‘Praise and thanks be to Allah, the Lord of the Universe’, Allah the Most High says: My slave has praised Me. And when he (the slave) says: **الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ** - ‘The Most Compassionate, the Merciful’, Allah the Most High says: My slave has lauded Me.

And when the slave says: **مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ** – ‘Master of the Day of judgment’, He remarks: My slave has glorified Me. And sometimes He would say: My slave entrusted his affairs to Me.



## Hadith Qudsi - Muslim : Hadith 775

And when he (the worshipper) says: **إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ** – ‘You (Alone) we worship, and You (Alone) we ask for help’, He (Allah) says: This is between Me and My slave, and My slave will receive what he asks for.

Then, when he (the worshipper) says:

**اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ**  
‘Guide us to the straight path, The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favour, not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray’, He (Allah) says: This is for My slave, and My slave will receive what he asks for.

Abu Huraira (ra) also reported that the Messenger of Allah (sas) said: If anyone observes salah in which he does not recite Umm al-Qur'an, his Salat is deficient (he said this three times). Abu Huraira (ra) asked what if we are behind the Imam, the Prophet (sas) said: Recite it inwardly.

## Other Relevant Ahadith

2. **Narrated by Abu Sa'id Al-Mu'alla (ra):** The prophet (sas) said, “Shall I not teach you the most superior Surah in the Qur'an?” He (sas) said, **الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ** - 'Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds.' (i.e., Surah al-Fatihah) which consists of seven repeatedly recited Ayaat in the Magnificent Qur'an which was given to me.”

Sahih Bukhari Book 6 : Volume 61 : Hadith 528

3. **Abdullah Ibn Abbas (ra) reported that:** the Prophet (sas) said 'Rejoice in the two lights brought to you which have not been brought to any prophet before you' (i.e. Surah al-Fatihah and the last Ayaat of Surah al-Baqarah), said an angel to the Prophet (sas).

Muslim : Book 4 : Hadith 1760

## Other Ahadith

**4. Abu Hurairah (ra) reported that: Prophet (sas) has said, “I swear by Allah who is the master of my life, neither the Torah, nor the Injeel nor the Zaboor (Psalms) have anything to compare with the Opening Chapter of the Quran, and no other Chapter of the Qur'an itself can compare with it.”**

Reported in Maarif-ul-Qur'an

**5. Imam Qurtubi has recorded that: The Prophet (sas) has also said that this Surah is a cure for all kinds of illnesses. According to another Tradition, the Surah has also been named 'the Cure' (al-Shifa).**

Reported in Maarif-ul-Qur'an

# Merits and Special Features of the Surah

- ❑ The Qur'an **begins with this Surah and It is** the first complete Surah to be revealed **to the Messenger of Allah.**
- ❑ It was revealed twice - **The first time was** when salah was made compulsory **in Makkah and the second time in Madina** when the Qibla direction was changed.
- ❑ The Surah starts from third person speech and changes into second person speech and then to first person. **This is an example of the linguistic highness most commonly used in the Arabic Language.**
- ❑ **The Surah comprises of** the Basic Islamic concept **and hence Allah (swt) made it** obligatory to recite in every Salat; **and not only in every Salat but** in every Rakah.
- ❑ It is the gist and the summary of the whole Quran.

# Remember! the Qur'an is Easy to Learn

- ❑ The 29 words of al-Fatihah has appeared 7500 times in the Qur'an !!!
- ❑ Therefore, if you learn the meaning of all the words of this Surah, then you have learnt around 12% of the words of the Qur'an.
- ❑ Remember, Allah (swt) has said 'We have made this Qur'an easy for you to understand and take admonition'.
- ❑ Have a firm belief that Allah (swt's) words are absolutely true and do not doubt about the ease of learning.

# Ta'awwuz - تَعَوُّذُ or اِسْتِعَاذَةٌ

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

I take refuge in Allah from Satan the outcast

❑ What is Ta'awwuz or Isti'azah - تَعَوُّذُ or اِسْتِعَاذَةٌ ?

**It is to say the words - “أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ” –**  
I take refuge in Allah from Satan the outcast.

❑ Ta'awwuz is a powerful supplication to seek refuge with Allah from the whispers and harm of Satan, the accursed.

❑ Allah (swt) commands us in the Quran, in an-Nahal (16:98),

فَإِذَا قَرَأْتَ الْقُرْآنَ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

So, when you recite the Qur'an, [first] **seek refuge** in Allah from Satan, the expelled [from His mercy].

# Ta'awwuz - تَعَوُّذٌ or اِسْتِعَاذَةٌ

اَلرَّجِيْمِ	اَلشَّيْطٰنِ	مِنْ	اَللّٰهِ	بِ	اَسْتَعِذُ	فَ	اَلْقُرْءَانَ	قَرَأْتَ	اِذَا	فَ
the outcast	the Shaitan	from	Allah	in	seek refuge	then	the Quran	you recite	when	so

- ❑ فَاسْتَعِذْ – is a command in the Ayah; it comes from the word عَوَّذٌ – meaning, to seek refuge.
- ❑ The Quran is a blessing for the world; the holy words of Allah (swt), but still it is recommended to recite Ta'awwuz before Quran recitation to avoid the whisperings of Shaitan
- ❑ In Surah al-Araf, (7:16,17) Allah (swt) tells us that: [Shaitan] said, “Because You have put me in error, I will surely sit in wait for them (humans) on Your straight path. Then I will come to them (humans) from front, from behind, on their right and on their left, and You will not find most of them grateful [to You]”

## Ta'awwuz - تَعَوُّذُ or اِسْتِعَاذَةٌ

- ❑ When you recite the Qur'an, shaitan will come and try to put you to sleep, he will put evil thoughts in your mind and remind you about other things you have to do. Only Allah (swt) can give us that strong protection from this invisible enemy of ours.
- ❑ So, start reciting by saying, “أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ” – I take refuge in Allah from Satan the outcast.
- ❑ It is not just a statement, rather it should be an action of the heart but recited by the tongue.
- ❑ الرَّجِيمِ – He is an outcast; stoned, cursed, rejected; thrown away from Allah's mercy. So, he has taken an oath to take revenge on the children of Adam (as). He is our open enemy. He wants us to be like him and be with him in hell.



# Tasmiyah - تَسْمِيَّةٌ

## بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name (of) Allah the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful

- **تَسْمِيَّةٌ Tasmiyah or بَسْمَلَةٌ Basmalah – is to say the words**  
**- بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ -**
- **بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ - This is the one of the best gifts of Allah that He (swt) has revealed to us.**
- **بِسْمِ اللَّهِ - The most common translation is “In the name of Allah” and this is not a complete sentence, rather it is a phrase followed by an action.**  
**Before or after we say بِسْمِ اللَّهِ , we add verbally or believe in our heart the intended action; for e.g. I eat, I drink, I drive, I enter, etc.**

# Tasmiyah - تَسْمِيَّةٌ

- Actually, the Arabic word **إِسْمٌ** comes from two origins or roots i.e. **وَسْمٌ** or from **وَسَامَةٌ**.
- **وَسْمٌ** in Arabic means two things.
  1. A unique mark - some kind of branding (of a horse as an example). So, it's a mark that distinguishes one horse from other horses. Similarly, if there are twins and we don't know which one is which? One of them has a birthmark. That's his **وَسْمٌ**. A mark that distinguishes the twins etc.
  2. And the other meaning of **وَسْمٌ** comes from **وَسَامَةٌ**. And from it, you get words like **وَسِيمٌ** and **وَسَامٌ** which means beauty.
- In other words, in the **إِسْمٌ** there is a unique mark of identification, and it is extremely beautiful.

# Tasmiyah - تَسْمِيَّةٌ

- Firstly, when we say بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ we are acknowledging about Allah (swt), that every one of His qualities, everything that He does is something that is Unique to Him (swt) and it cannot be confused or compared with anyone else.
- The way Allah shows His mercy, the way Allah guides, the way Allah provides, the way Allah plans, the way Allah does anything is unique to Him, and it cannot be compared to anyone else. That is His unique mark.
- Secondly, everything that Allah does - whether we understand it or not - has beauty in it. And that's just inside [the word اِسْمٌ ], when we invoke the name of Allah (swt).

# Tasmiyah - تَسْمِيَةٌ

## Asking Allah's Help

- Let's take a step further. When we say, بِسْمِ اللَّهِ - “In the name of Allah”, instead of mentioning just Allah - the uniqueness of Allah and the Beauty of all of His qualities get mentioned.
- Imam Aloosi (r) commented that the word ‘ب’ in بِسْمِ اللَّهِ is أَلْبَاءُ لِالِاسْتِعَانَةِ - meaning, asking for Allah's help.
- Human beings need different types of help for different situations. for e.g.  
When you are sick you need someone to cure you;  
When you are tired, you need someone to help you;  
When you are confused, you need someone to clarify for you etc...

# Tasmiyah - تَسْمِيَّةٌ

- When we ask Allah for help for different occasions, we need different kinds of help. And each and every name of Allah (swt) provides a different kind of help.
- When Allah calls Himself **الْهَادِي** - the One who guides - then, the help He will give us when we ask Him by that name is that He will guide us.
- When He calls Himself **الرَّازِقُ** - 'The Provider' and **الرَّزَّاقُ** - the One who provides over and over again.; then, obviously, in that name He is giving us provision.
- Allah calls Himself **ذُو الْقُوَّةِ الْمَتِينُ** - the One who has extended might. When we are weak and need strength, we will call on Allah's power to grant us some of that power for ourselves; so, we can accomplish what we need to do.

# Tasmiyah - تَسْمِيَّةٌ

- So, every one of Allah's names gives us a different kind of help.
- But when we wake up in the morning and just getting out of bed and out of our mouth comes “بِسْمِ اللَّهِ” just like that, we don't think about which name do we need right now. Do we need Allah to give us the strength to get up? Do we need Allah to guide us this morning? Which name of Allah should we call?
- And it is the gift of Allah that by using just the word “بِسْمِ اللَّهِ” it is all of the names of Allah, all of the unique qualities of Allah, all of the beautiful things about Allah that you included just inside the word بِسْمِ اللَّهِ , whether you thought of all of those names or not.

# Tasmiyah - تَسْمِيَّةٌ

- This is the mercy of Allah. We could not have thought of all of the things that we need from Him because we don't need one thing; we need too many things.
- If you don't say “بِسْمِ اللَّهِ” then the Blessing of Allah is not there. But if you say “بِسْمِ اللَّهِ” then the Blessing of Allah will be there, and this is necessary and required for a believer (lazim and malzoom).  
Allah swt (says) in Surah al-Araf (7:180), “And to Allah belong the most beautiful names, so invoke Him by them”.
- How many people are going to learn all the names of Allah? Not everybody will know all the names of Allah, but we need all of them. So, Allah gave us this great gift when we say, “بِسْمِ اللَّهِ”

# Tasmiyah - تَسْمِيَةٌ

## What Is The Origin of The Word Allah?

- Does the word **الله** come from the word **إِلَه** ? or is it **أَلْ إِلَه** ? or is it the name of Allah that belongs to Allah (**لَفْظُ الْجَلَالَةِ**) from before Arabic and before all languages?
- If we say that this word comes from the word **إِلَه** it is commonly translated as someone to be worshipped (**الْمَعْبُود**)  
The word **أَلِه** (aliha) as a verb actually comes from love.
- The old Arabs before Islam used to have 10 degrees of love. The lowest of them was **حُب** (love) and the tenth one is **أَلْهِيَام** (the madness) - that which will kill you (you love someone so much, you become so obsessed that you can't eat, you can't sleep and it will just kill you).



# Tasmiyah - تَسْمِيَّةٌ

## What Is The Origin of The Word Allah?

- ❑ The ninth one actually is called **وَلَةٌ** (intense love or devotion) from which the word **إِلَهٍ** comes from.
- ❑ The word **وَلَةٌ** means a kind of love that when you have it, you don't feel pain, you don't feel hunger, you don't feel sadness.
- ❑ This love fills your appetite so much, that **there's no room left for anything else. There's no negative emotion left in your life. Because this **إِلَهٍ** has filled it for you.**
- ❑ When we call upon Allah by saying, **بِسْمِ اللَّهِ** we are **expressing our love for Allah and acknowledging that if we truly have love for Allah, all of our problems are going to feel like nothing.**

# Tasmiyah - تَسْمِيَةٌ

- ❑ So, what happens when we supplicate with Ta'awwuz and Tasmiyah?
- ❑ **أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ - I take refuge in Allah from Shaitan the outcast.**  
**بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ - Utilizing the name of Allah The Entirely Merciful The Especially Merciful.**
- ❑ You are entering the mercy of Allah, the protection of Allah, from the Shaitan who was expelled from His mercy and then you are using His names that signify His Merciful traits in the best possible manner to start your work. When you start anything good with this combination, Allah adds Barakah (Blessing) in everything you do. Every good deed you do prospers. What more do you need to make everything you do an absolute success?