

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Tafsir Surat Al-Fatihah

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Goals

by understanding Al-Fatihah, we want to:

1. get the tremendous important knowledge it teaches us
2. be reminded each time we recite it
3. be khushu in our salah

Reference

Tafsir Surah al-
Fatihah

by

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Why Al-Fatihah?

- ⊕ The most important, unique and greatest surah
- 1. ... Rasulullah SAW said, “*Shall I teach you the greatest Surah in the Qur'an before you leave the mosque?*” Then he took me (Abu Said ibn Al-Mu'alla) by the hand, and when we were about to step out, I reminded him of his promise to teach me the greatest Surah in the Qur'an. He said, “*It is الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ (i.e. Surat Al-Fatihah) which is السبع المثاني and the Great Qur'an which is given to me.*” (reported by Bukhari etc.)

Why Al-Fatihah?

2. ... the angel said “*Receive glad tidings (Oh Muhammad!) with two **lights** which have been given to you, that have **never been given to a Prophet before you**: The Opening of the Book (i.e. Surat Al- Fatihah) and the end of Surat Al-Baqarah. Never do you read a letter from either of the two except that **you are given it.**” (reported by Muslim)*
 3. The 1st surah that is sent down completed
 4. Every believer recited it at least 17x each day (6205x each year)
- ⊕ It absolutely deserves to be comprehended. Have you?

Names of Surat Al-Fatihah

⊗ Imam Suyuthi listed over 25 names

⊗ Names in hadith:

1. الْفَاتِحَة

2. أُمُّ الْقُرْآنِ

3. أُمُّ الْكِتَابِ

4. many others...

⊗ Name in Quran:

⊗ سَبْعًا مِّنَ الْمَثَانِي (QS Hijr: 87)

Names of Surat Al-Fatihah

الْفَاتِحَةُ

⊕ Means?

1. the opening
2. the way out (victory)

⊕ “*Whoever never recited سُورَةُ الْفَاتِحَةِ, he has nothing to do with us.*” (reported by Abu Dawud, At-Tirmidzi, An-Nasa`i, and Ibn Majah)

Names of Surat Al-Fatihah

أُمُّ الْكِتَابِ and أُمُّ الْقُرْآنِ

- ⊕ “Whoever offers a prayer in which he does not recite ^{أُمُّ} الْكِتَابِ, it is defective.” and he said it 3 times. (reported by Abu Dawud and Ahmad)
- ⊕ It contains:
 - ⊕ 3 primary names of Allah (رَبِّ - الرَّحْمَن - اللهُ)
 - ⊕ 3 categories of mankind (الضَّالِّينَ - الْمَعْضُوبِ - الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ)
 - ⊕ 3 motivations of worship (love - hope - fear)
 - ⊕ 3 fundamentals of religion (tawhid - risalah - akhirah)
 - ⊕ 3 fundamentals of tawhid
 1. natures of Allah
 2. our relationship with Allah
 3. worship & make dua to Him alone

Names of Surat Al-Fatihah

سَبْعًا مِّنَ الْمَثَانِي

(Quran 15:87) وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَاكَ سَبْعًا مِّنَ الْمَثَانِي وَالْقُرْآنَ الْعَظِيمَ

And We have certainly given you, **seven of the often repeated** and the great Qur'an.

- ⊛ Every believers recited Al-Fatihah at least 17x every day
- ⊛ at least 6205x/believer every year
- ⊛ Assume $\frac{2}{3}$ muslims in the world solah 5x/day, it means Al-Fatihah is recited more than 7,000,000,000,000x in 2017 alone!
- ⊛ imagine how many since the time of prophet Muhammad pbuh until kiamat!

Names of Surat Al-Fatihah

Other Names

- ⦿ Surah of Healing

as referred in the hadith of ruqyah from Abu Said Al-Khudri (reported by Bukhari)

- ⦿ Surah of Solah

see next slide...

Abu Hurairah r.a. said: I have heard the Prophet pbuh say: “Allah has said: I have divided **الصلاة** between Myself and My servant into **two equal halves**, and My servant shall have what he has asked for.

When the servant says: **All praise belongs to Allah the Rabb of all the worlds.**
Allah says: **My servant has praised Me.**

And when he says: **The Most Gracious the Most Merciful.**
Allah says: **My servant has extolled Me.**

And when he says: **Master of the day of judgement.**
Allah says: **My servant has glorified Me / My servant has submitted to My power.**

And when he says: **You alone do we worship and from You alone do we seek help.**
Allah says: **This is between Me and My servant, and My servant shall have what he has asked for.**

And when he says: **Guide us to the straight path, the path of those whom you have favored, not of those upon whom is Your anger, nor of those who are astray.**
Allah says: **This is for My servant, and My servant shall have what he has asked for.”**

(reported by Muslim and 5 others)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

- ⊗ The single controversy of Quranic verse: is it a verse or not?
 - ⊗ Kuffah & Syafi'i recitation: **yes, recite out loud**
 - ⊗ Madinah, Basrah, Maliki & Hanafi recitation: **not a verse**
 - ⊗ Hambali: **yes, but recite silently**
- ⊗ Basmallah in other places:
 - ⊗ 1st revelation
 - ⊗ story of prophet Noah (QS Hud:41)
 - ⊗ story of prophet Solomon (QS An-Naml:30)
 - ⊗ letters of prophet Muhammad to kings
- ⊗ *“Every important deed that is not begin with basmallah, it is mutilated (the blessing)”* (popular hadith)
 - ⊗ Mention Allah's name at every possible time

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

- ⊗ Incomplete sentence
 - ⊗ no verb
 - ⊗ pertinent (contextual, so you can use it in any action)
 - ⊗ subsequent (the verb is in the end)
 - ⊗ to put emphasis to Allah, not ourselves
 - ⊗ means exclusivity (only for Allah)
- ⊗ Some meanings of the بِ: **بِ**:
 - ⊗ because of Allah
 - ⊗ request for Allah's help
 - ⊗ hope for Allah's acceptance
- ⊗ Why **with the name of Allah**? Why not **with Allah** directly?
 - ⊗ the name itself is holy, how much more so is Allah!

الله

- ⊗ God's main name
 - ⊗ in Quran: mentioned the most (± 3400), the first and the last
- ⊗ Also found in previous civilizations
 - ⊗ old testament: Iloh, Ilohim
 - ⊗ new testament: Ilay, Allah
 - ⊗ the writing looks like الله found in Babylon's manuscript referring the highest god.
 - ⊗ the name Allah found in Nabataean script as the ultimate God that is too holy to be drawn.

اللَّهِ

⊕ Meaning:

1. from **وَلِيَ**:

- ⊕ to become astonished/confused
- ⊕ lose mind because of a beloved

2. from **أَلَى**: place to turn to for protection

3. from **أَلَى**: to stay in a place for security/comfort

4. from **يَلِيهِ - لَاءَ** : to be raised up

5. **from أَلَى - يَعْزُهُ : the one who is worshiped**

- ⊕ the linguistic meaning
- ⊕ majority of scholars opinion, including Ibn Abbas
- ⊕ the most comprehensive name
 - ⊕ because He is worthy being worship if He is Rohim, Sami', etc.

الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ

- Their root is رَجِمَ, which means to show mercy, to bring benefit to
- الرَّحْمَانُ is the only name...
 - that Allah puts together with الله in Quran
 - other than الله that occurs by itself
- a dedicated surah about Ar-Rahman
- occurs in Quran:
 - الرَّحْمَانُ 57x
 - الرَّحِيمُ 114x

It's a very significant name!

Differences of الرَّحْمَن and الرَّحِيم

- Ar-Rahman: the one who shows mercy to all things and time
- Ar-Rahim: the one who shows extra special mercy to those who believe in him

- Ar-Rahman: merciful by nature
- Ar-Rahim: merciful in actions

- Abul 'Aliyah rah.a:
 - Ar-Rahman: if you ask, He will give
 - Ar-Rahim: if you don't ask, He will be angry

How to get Allah's mercy?

- ⊕ *“Those who have mercy will get mercy from Ar-Rahman. Have mercy for those who are in the earth, you will get mercy from the one who is in the Heaven.”*
(Abu Dawud & Tirmidzi)
- ⊕ *“Whoever don't have mercy on humans, Allah will not have mercy on him.”* (Bukhari & Muslim)

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

- ⊗ a very fascinating way to begin a holy book
 - ⊗ *“As I read that line, I think ‘this is a divine book should begin’”*
(Dr. Abdullah Brown)
- ⊗ The 1st sentence of human being
- ⊗ The Prophet PBUH praise Allah whatever the situation

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ ...

- ⊛ Why حَمِدَ, not شَكَرَ or مَدَحَ ?
 - ⊛ شكر = thanks for favour
 - ⊛ حمد = praise because of worthy of praises
 - ⊛ مدح = praise, but can be of luck (e.g. handsome)
- ⊛ Why لِ الْحَمْدُ not إِحْمَدِ or نَحْمَدُ?
 - ⊛ The لِ means every and exclusive
 - ⊛ Command is not as eloquent as a statement/rule
 - ⊛ Allah praises is not limited of time and is better than our quality of praising
 - ⊛ “Ya Allah, I can't praise you enough. Only you can praise yourself properly.” (the Prophet PBUH in Masjid Nabawi)

... رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

⊕ meaning of رَبِّ :

1. the owner
2. the one who is obeyed
3. the one who nourishes/sustains/takes care of

⊕ means also the controller

⊕ meaning of الْعَالَمِينَ:

1. beings that have intellect (عَالِمٌ) → human, jin, angel
2. creations that have soul → the better meaning

⊕ why Allah specifies to creations that have intellect/soul?

⊕ Allah can said رَبِّ الْمَخْلُوقَاتِ or anything else

⊕ That's how the praise comes

الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ

- ⊗ Why does Allah repeat it?
 - ⊗ the phrase رَبِّ could indicate the master that is scary (of the power)
 - ⊗ Allah wants to say He is the merciful lord, not the harsh one
- ⊗ The next verse will balance the emotion.

مَا لِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ

- ⊗ Humans need warning
- ⊗ There are 2 recitations:
 1. مَا لِكِ = owner
 2. مَلِكِ = king
- ⊗ the beauty of Quranic recitations is the alternative adds meaning to the other
- ⊗ meaning of الدِّينِ :
 1. life style, religion
 2. judgement
- ⊗ the length of the judgement day depends on your iman

مَا لِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ

- ⊗ what is يَوْمِ الدِّينِ?
 - ⊗ QS Al-Infithar: 17-19
 - ⊗ is the mechanism of Allah's justice
- ⊗ why Allah specifies the day of judgement (not the other)?
 1. the king of judgement day is the king of all occasion
 2. there is no owner nor king in judgement day other than Allah
- ⊗ Judgement day is important concept since worldly life is unfair

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ

- ⊗ The most profound verse
 - ⊗ Ibnul Qoyyim wrote a 800+ pages book: 3 volumes of tafsir of this verse
- ⊗ There is a change in tense from 3rd to 2nd person
 - ⊗ iltifaat, an eloquence in Arabic literature, make you think
 - ⊗ meaning: transition from knowledge to action
 - ⊗ The rest is a dialogue of a servant and his God
- ⊗ Why not نَعْبُدُكَ?
 1. to emphasize Allah rather than us
 2. حَسْر (exclusivity)
- ⊗ Why “we”, not “I”?
 - ⊗ to emphasize solidarity of muslims

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ ...

- ⊗ the meaning of عِبَادَة
 - ⊗ the origin: عَبَدَ = to show humility to
 - ⊗ after the coming of Islam: worship
 - ⊗ antonym: arrogance
- ⊗ requirements of ritual worship:
 1. ikhlas
 2. conform to shariah
- ⊗ how about non-rituals (daily routines)?
 - ⊗ They can be upgraded into عِبَادَة if you're ikhlas

... وَ إِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ

- ⊗ Asking help is a type of worship, why Allah separates it?
 1. “*the most noble act of worship is making dua*” (reported by Tirmidzi, Ibn Majah and Ahmad)
 - ⊗ “*Make dua to Me, I will answer it. Those who are too arrogant to worship Me will enter jahannam.*” (reported by Ahmad and 4 sunans)
 2. worship is purely for hereafter, asking help can be for worldly matters as well
- ⊗ Is it forbidden to ask help from other than Allah?
 - ⊗ No, see Quran 5:2
 - ⊗ اِسْتِعَانَةٌ includes tawakkul
 - ⊗ all worldly helper is just a cause

اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

🌐 Links to previous verses:

1. Guidance is the most important help to ask for
2. Suratul Fatihah teaches us an etiquette of making dua

🌐 هدي = to guide in a beautiful & gentle manner

- 🌐 That's why هَدِيَّة (gift) derived from the same root

🌐 Types of هِدَايَة (Al-Mufradat fi Gharib al-Quran by Raghib Isfahani):

1. common sense: every human being get it
2. guidance in form of the holy book and the prophet
3. guidance from Allah to act upon the knowledge
4. guidance to enter paradise

اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

- ⊗ Why صِرَات, not سَبِيل or طَرِيق?
 - ⊗ سَبِيل = small passage way
 - ⊗ طَرِيق = small road, can be mountainous
 - ⊗ صِرَات = clear, massive & level street; like main highway
- ⊗ In Quran, صِرَات only occurs in singular
 - ⊗ the truth is only one, but falsehood are many
 - ⊗ e.g. ... مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ
 - ⊗ many people will be on it
 - ⊗ and it's clear
- ⊗ الْمُسْتَقِيم = straight, correct, perfect

اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

- ⊗ Why should I ask for guidance while I'm already muslim?
 - ⊗ Guidance is not binary, but multiple level
 - ⊗ QS Maryam:76, QS Al-Kahf:13
 - ⊗ Prophet PBUH made dua in his tahajud “*Oh Allah, guide me*”
- ⊗ Why “we”, not “I”?
 1. Make dua for communities as well
 2. Teaches us to not being selfish

صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ

- ⊗ Whom are that Allah has bestowed favor?
 - ⊗ 4 categories of the bestowed favor → QS An-Nisa:69
- ⊗ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ → favors & guidance is from Allah
 - ⊗ not from us
- ⊗ Notice: the contrasting
 - ⊗ Contrasting is a methodology of Islam

غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ

- ⊗ Notice: Allah is not mentioned in the phrase
 1. Etiquette to Allah: don't mention Allah in negative sentence
 - ⊗ e.g. QS 7:23 vs QS 15:39; QS 26:80
 2. Not only Allah who will be angry
- ⊗ الْمَغْضُوبِ = those who know the truth but don't follow it
 - ⊗ e.g. followers of prophet Moses
- ⊗ الضَّالِّينَ = those who don't know the truth, even if they act sincerely
 - ⊗ e.g. modern followers of prophet Jesus
- ⊗ Lesson: to be the **أَنْعَمَتَ عَلَيْهِمْ**, we need knowledge and action
 - ⊗ This is the essence of our religion
 - e.g. the 1st and 2nd verses sent down

جَزَاكَ اللهُ
JAZAKALLAHU