

**DARUL ULOOM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
A CONCISE COMMENTARY COURSE OF
THE HOLY QURAN (2001-2020)**

SURAH AL FATH

SYNOPSIS OF SURAH AL FATH

This Surah (Chapter) was revealed in Madinah and is known to be a ‘Madani Surah’. It discusses matters of the Shariah that are connected to dealings/transactions, worship (Ibadaat), conduct (Akhlaaq) and other laws that were revealed in Madinah.

The Surah speaks about the incident which is known as Sulh Al Hudaibiyah (the peace treaty at Hudaibiyah) which was made between the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) and the Mushrikeen (polytheists) in 6 AH. This was the foundation and beginning of a great victory for the Prophet (ﷺ) and the believers, which resulted in the victory and conquest of Makkah. With this, Allah’s help and honour came to Islam, people started to enter Islam in multitudes, and the believers (Muslims) became well established in the lands of Makkah and Madinah.

The Surah also speaks of the Holy wars/battles which Muslims were required to participate in. In this regard, it highlights the special oath taken by the Sahabahs (companions) {from the Prophet (ﷺ)} to fight in the path of Allah, which is known as ‘Bai’ah Ar Ridhwan’.

While discussing the sacrifices made by the true believers in striving for the cause of Allah’s religion, the Surah mentions the weakness and cowardice shown by the hypocrites and desert Arabs when they refused to accompany Allah’s Messenger in striving for the cause of Allah’s religion. They harbored ill-feelings against the Prophet (ﷺ) and the believers, and failed to support the Prophet (ﷺ) and the religion of Islam.

The Surah also highlights the dream which Allah showed the Prophet (ﷺ) while he was in Madinah, where he, along with the believers will enter Makkah in safety and in peace, and perform Umrah.

The Surah then concludes by mentioning the beautiful conduct and qualities of the Prophet (ﷺ) and the believers, and states that Allah has promised them His forgiveness and a mighty reward in Paradise.

The Surah has been named with the word ‘Al Fath’, which means ‘the victory’, since Allah has given glad tidings to the believers of a great victory in this Surah. It is narrated that this Surah was revealed to the Prophet (ﷺ) after he returned from signing the peace treaty at Hudaibiyah (Sulh Al Hudaibiyah). When it was revealed to him, he said, ‘Verily a Surah has been revealed to me on this night, which is more beloved to me than this world and what it contains’. (Ahmad)

CAUSE OF REVELATION OF SURAH AL FATH

While discussing the cause of revelation of Surah Al Fath, Hafiz Ibn Katheer (A.R) states, ‘This honourable Surah was revealed after the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) returned from the area of Al Hudaibiyah, during the month of Dhul Qa’dah in the sixth year of Hijrah. This is when the Mushrikeen (polytheists) prevented him from reaching Al Masjidul Haraam to perform the Umrah he intended. They became an obstacle/hindrance between him and the performance of his Umrah, and then became inclined towards a peace treaty. In that treaty, they stated that he should return (to Madinah) in that year and come back to perform Umrah the next year. He (the Prophet ﷺ) accepted this, but his companions disliked it.

After the Prophet (ﷺ) slaughtered his sacrificial animals in the area where he was stopped and headed back to Madinah, Allah the Exalted and Most Honored revealed this Surah about what occurred between him and the Mushrikeen (polytheists). Allah made the peace treaty a victory, because of the benefits that will come in it, and the good results that will emanate from it. It is for this reason, it has been reported from Abdullah bin Masood (R.A) or another companion, that he said, ‘You people consider the ‘real victory’ to be the victory/conquest of Makkah, but we consider the ‘real/true victory’ to be the ‘peace treaty at Hudaibiyah’ (Sulh Al Hudaibiyah).

Amash has narrated from Abu Sufyan that Jabir (R.A) said, ‘We only considered the victory to be the day of Hudaibiyah’. Imam Al Bukhari recorded that Bara bin Azib (R.A) said, ‘You consider the victory (Al Fath) to be the victory/conquest of Makkah, which was indeed a victory. However, we consider the victory (Al Fath) to be the pledge of Ar Ridhwan (Bai’ah Ar Ridhwan) on the day of

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Hudaibiyah. Then, we were fourteen hundred with the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ). Al Hudaibiyah had a well, whose water we consumed, not leaving a drop of water in it. When the news of what happened reached the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ), he came towards us and sat on the edge of the well. Then he asked for a utensil of water (which was brought to him). He then made wudhu from it, rinsed his mouth and made dua (supplication), and then poured that water into the well. We then left the well as it was, for a short while. Soon after that, the well provided so much water, it was sufficient for all of us and our animals.'

It is recorded from Zaid bin Aslam from his father that Umar ibn Al Khattab (R.A) said, 'We were with the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) on a journey, and I asked him about a matter three times but he did not respond to me. So I said to myself, 'May your mother lose you O son of Al Khattab! You were stubborn in repeating your question three times to the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ), and he did not respond to you'. Umar said, 'I then mounted my animal and went ahead for fear that a part of the Quran might be revealed about me. Suddenly, I heard someone calling out, 'O Umar!' So I returned thinking that something has been revealed regarding me. The Prophet (ﷺ) then said, 'Last night a Surah was revealed to me which is dearer to me than the world and what it contains'. He then recited the verses of Sura Al Fath which state :- *'Verily, We have given you (O Muhammad) a manifest victory. That Allah may forgive you your sins of the past and the future, and complete His Favour on you, and guide you on the Straight Path'*.

(Sura Al Fath verses 1,2). (Bukhari, Tirmidhi, An Nasaii)

It was also narrated from Qatadah that Anas bin Malik (R.A) said, 'When the verse of Surah Al Fath was revealed to the Prophet (ﷺ) on his return from Al Hudaibiyah, he said, 'This night a verse has been revealed to me which is more beloved to me than whatever the earth has', he then recited the verses of Surah Al Fath which states,

- 1. Verily, We have given you (O Muhammad) a manifest victory.**
- 2. That Allah may forgive you your sins of the past and the future, and complete His Favour on you, and guide you on the Straight Path;**

Upon this, the Sahabahs (companions) said, 'Congratulations O Prophet of Allah! Allah the Exalted has made clear and manifest what He would do for you. But what would He do for us? In response to this, Allah revealed:

- 5. That He may admit the believing men and the believing women to Gardens under which rivers flow (i.e. Paradise), to abide therein forever, and to expiate from them their sins, and that is with Allah, a supreme success'.**

(Bukhari, Muslim, Tirmidhi, Ahmad). (Tafseer Ibn Katheer vol.5 pg. 547, 548 Dar Al Kitab Al Arabi, Beirut 2013; Tafseer Al Qurtubi vol.16 pg. 221, 222 Maktaba Rasheediya Queta; Tafseer Al Baghwi vol.5 pgs.187,188 Idara Taleefaat Ashrafiya Multan Pakistan)