



# UNDERSTANDING SURAH AL-FATIHA





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**Note:** The content of this book is based on the Qur'an, Hadith, and Islamic texts that have been written, verified, and approved by three scholars.

Surah Al-Fatiha, as arranged in the Qur'an, is the opening chapter. It is a Makki surah, consisting of seven verses and a single Ruku.

Surah Al-Fatiha was placed at the beginning of the Qur'an due to its significant status, which is even more powerful than the preamble of a constitution in the context of law.

This surah is commonly known as Surah Al-Fatiha. The term “Fatiha” means “opening,” symbolizing the commencement of the Qur’an.

This surah is also known by several other names, such as Fatiha Al-Kitab, Umm Al-Kitab, Umm Al-Qur'an, As-Sab'a Al-Mathani, Al-Kafiyyah, Ash-Shafiyyah, Ash-Shifa, Asas Al-Qur'an, Al-Qur'an Al-Azim, Ar-Ruqyah, As-Salah, Surah Al-Hamd, and more.

This Surah was revealed in the early days of the Makkahn period when the Prophet ﷺ was only given the authority to secretly invite people towards Islam.

In the Qur'an, there are a total of five surahs that begin with 'Alhamd' (Praise). Among them, Surah Al-Fatiha is the first one, and its beginning is also with 'Alhamd' (Praise).



Its great virtues are mentioned in the Qur'an and the Hadith. This is the most important Surah of the Qur'an, the like of which has not been revealed in the Torah, the Gospel, the Zabur, and even in the Qur'an itself.

The Prophet ﷺ said:

“I swear by the One in whose hand is my life. In the Torah, in the Gospel, in the Psalms, not even in the Qur’an has a Surah been revealed like it. These are the seven Ayat (verses), and this is the great Qur’an that has been bestowed upon me.”

(Al-Tirmidhi:2875)

In the Qur'an, Allah also referred to this Surah by the names Al-Sab'a Al-Mathani and Al-Qur'an Al-Azim: "Indeed, We have given you seven verses that are repeated, and We have also given you a great Qur'an." (Surah Al-Hijr: 87)

Abu Sa'id bin Al-Mu'alla narrates that Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said to me, 'I will teach you the greatest surah of the Holy Qur'an before I leave the mosque today.' Then Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, 'Alhamdulillah Rabbil 'Alamin.' This is the seven oft-repeated verses, and it is the great Qur'an that has been given to me."

(Al Bukhari: 4474)

This is the Surah for which recitation is indispensable during prayers. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ declared: “The one who performs Salah (prayer) without the recitation of the Mother of the Qur’an, his prayer remains incomplete.” He reiterated this three times, emphasizing its absolute importance. (Muslim:878)

Another virtue of this Surah is its healing nature. During a journey, a companion recited it to cure a tribal chief who was bitten by a scorpion, and he was healed. (Al Bukhari:5736)

This Surah engages individuals in conversation with their Lord during prayers. When a person recites Surah Al-Fatiha in prayer, Allah, the Lord of all worlds, responds to the worshipper. He says, 'My servant has praised Me, and to My servant will be granted all that he has asked for.'

Once, Jibril عليه السلام was sitting with the Prophet ﷺ when the sound of a door opening from the sky reached them. He said, 'Today a door in the sky was opened which has never been opened before, and today an angel descended to the Earth who had never descended before. He greeted with Salam and said, 'Rejoice in two lights given to you which have not been given to any prophet before you,' and these are Surah Al-Fatiha and the last verses of Surah Al-Baqarah.' (Muslim: 806)



The initial three verses of this Surah elaborate on the praise and attributes of Allah. The fourth verse emphasizes the acknowledgment that Allah alone is worthy of worship and that supplications should be directed to Him.

Verses five to seven encourage believers to recite a supplication, mentioning that they desire to walk on the straight path, the path of those who have received blessings, not the path of those who have incurred wrath, nor of those who have gone astray.

In this Surah, all three aspects of Tawhid are explained: Tawhid Rububiyah (Oneness of Lordship), Tawhid Al-Uluhiyah (Oneness of Worship), and Tawhid Asma' wa Sifat (Oneness of Names and Attributes). The Surah teaches gratitude for Allah's blessings, sincerity in worship, and the importance of choosing righteous companions.

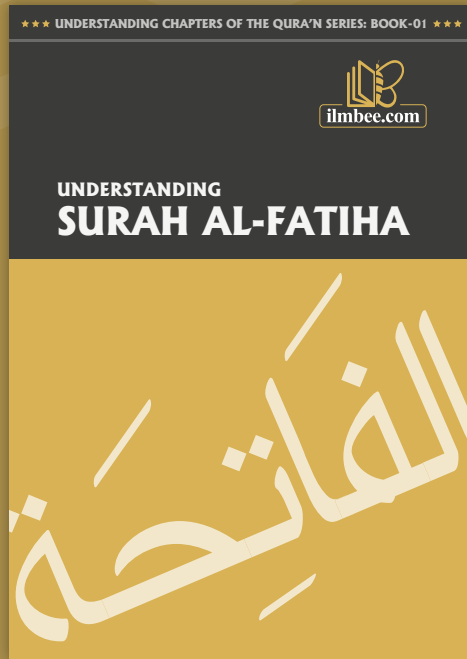
This Surah also teaches that, just as Allah is the Most Merciful and Compassionate, we should manifest gentleness in all our dealings—with our parents, family, and all people.

Further clarification is given that this Surah is a covenant and agreement between the servant and the Lord, which the servant recites in every prayer. It is taught that one should always pray for guidance from Allah, and this is only possible through Allah's Grace.

The summary of all heavenly books, including the Qur'an itself, is stated in Surah Al-Fatiha. It guides one to reform oneself by acquiring beliefs in the oneness of Allah, worship of Allah, adopting an Islamic way of life, and learning from the stories of good and bad people and their consequences.

# REVIEW YOUR READING

1. What is the opening chapter of the Qur'an called?
2. How many verses are in Surah Al-Fatiha?
3. Which Surah is also known as "Umm Al-kitab"?



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