

Para 1 to 2.25

Surah al-Fatihah (Chapter 1: The Opening). Makkan*. 7 Verses.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

I seek refuge with Allah from Shaytan the rejected.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Allah's name I begin with the utmost Kind, the ever Merciful.

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ۝ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ۝ مَلِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ ۝

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ ۝ أَهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ۝ صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ

غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ ۝

All praise is for Allah, Lord of all the worlds. The utmost Kind, the ever Merciful. Master of the Day of Judgement. You alone we worship, and from You alone we seek help. Guide us upon the straight path. The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favour. Not of those who incurred anger, and nor of those who wander astray.

Amin: "O Allah! Accept the prayer and supplication I have made."

Excellence of Surah al-Fatihah

It is recited a minimum of 13 times a day (in *fard* and *wajib* units) and 48 times if all units are performed of each salah. It is necessary (*wajib*) to recite in each salah.

The Prophet ﷺ said: "This is the greatest chapter of all." [*Sahih al-Bukhari*, Hadith 5006]

From the many names of this Chapter is Surah al-Shifa (Chapter of the Cure) since one may recite it for cure. A Companion recited this Chapter over an ill person and by the permission of Allah he was cured. [*Sahih al-Bukhari*, Hadith 2276]

Themes of Surah al-Fatihah

The first attributes Allah has mentioned in the Qur'an is *al-Rahman* (the utmost Kind) and *al-Rahim* (the ever Merciful). Allah's mercy overwhelms His wrath. Lesson: Be ready to repent at all times for Allah's mercy is unlimited and always eager to forgive.

We are taught that the purpose of our creation is to worship Allah. This lies in our belief in Allah, our utmost humility before Allah, and in following His righteous servants who are steadfast on the straight path.

*Makkan Chapter if revealed before the migration (*hijrah*) and Madinan Chapter if revealed after the migration.

Surah al-Baqarah (Chapter 2: The Cow). Madinan. 286 Verses. Over 3 Paras.

Excellence of Surah al-Baqarah

It is the longest Chapter of the Qur'an and contains the longest verse of the Qur'an. It contains the sovereign of all verses - *ayat al-kursi*. [Sunan al-Tirmidhi]

The Prophet ﷺ said: "The one who recited Surah al-Baqarah will be crowned with the crown of Paradise." [Shu'ab al-Iman]

The Prophet ﷺ said: "When a deceased is buried, the first five verses of Surah al-Baqarah should be recited at the grave by the side of the head, and the last two verses should be recited by the side of the feet." [Mishkat al-Masabih]

Themes of Surah al-Baqarah

At the beginning, Allah mentions five characteristics of the God-fearing people (*al-muttaqin*):

1. Believe in the unseen (*ghayb*).
2. Establish the prayer (*salah*).
3. Spend from Allah has provided for them.
4. Believe in what has been revealed in the Qur'an and the previous books.
5. Certainty in the hereafter (*akhirah*).

These are the ones upon guidance (*hudan*) and are the successful ones (*al-muflihun*).

This Chapter discusses in detail the Banu Israil - Israelites so we can take lessons from them.

Reason behind the name al-Baqarah (The Cow) Verses 67-73

وَإِذْ قَالَ مُوسَىٰ لِقَوْمِهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُكُمْ أَنْ تَذْبَحُوا بَقْرَةً قَالُوا أَتَتَّخِذُنَا هُزُوعًا قَالَ أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ أَنْ أَكُونَ مِنَ الْجَاهِلِينَ ﴿٦٧﴾

And recall when Musa said to his people: "Indeed Allah commands you that you sacrifice a cow." They said: "Are you making fun of us?" Musa said: "I seek refuge with Allah from being of the ignorant." [Qur'an 2:67]

Baqarah means cow. A man was murdered by his cousin, he left his corpse a distance away. The murderer then began to cry for justice: "My cousin has been killed." He started pleading his innocence. So, Allah told the Israelites to slaughter a cow, then a piece of meat should be struck against the dead body. That dead body will become alive and will testify who murdered it. However, the murderer and his community came out with lame excuses and silly questions. Allah said slaughter a cow, any cow would have done, but they began to say, how old is it, what colour is it etc. Eventually they did as they were told and the dead body became alive and said: "This cousin of mine murdered me." So, the cousin was punished by death in retaliation (*qisas*).

Lesson: When Allah gives a command, act upon it immediately.