

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, most Kind, most Merciful



Surat al-Baqarah 2:238

حَافِظُوا عَلَى الصَّلَوَاتِ
وَالصَّلَاةِ الْوُسْطَى
وَقُومُوا لِلَّهِ قَانِتِينَ

Be watchful of your prayers, and [especially] the middle prayer, and stand in obedience to Allah;

Learning Objectives

- To explain the importance of *salah* and its benefits
- To describe the importance of praying any *qadha salah* as soon as possible
- To outline the consequences associated with delaying *salah*

Key Words

قَضَاء Qadha
lapsed

أَوَّلُ الْوَقْتِ Awwal al-waqt
prime time

وَقْتُ الْفَضِيلَةِ Waqt al-fadhilah
time of excellence/merit; the best time to perform *salah*

خَيْرُ الْأَعْمَالِ Khayr al-a'mal
best of deeds



In the year 10 AH, Rasulullah (s) performed his farewell hajj, accompanied by 125,000 companions. On his return, as they reached a place called Ghadir al-Khumm, angel Jibril revealed *ayah* 67 of *Surat al-Ma'idah* to him. In this *ayah*, Rasulullah (s) was told to declare publicly that Imam Ali (a) would be his successor, and *wali* of the people after him, otherwise his whole mission as a prophet would be worthless.

He ordered a pulpit to be raised with the saddles of the camels. He then ordered that those people who had gone ahead should come back, and those who were lagging behind should speed up and come forward.

Bilal called out, “*Hayya ala khayril amal.*”

The crowd gathered around the pulpit of Rasulullah (s). He climbed onto the pulpit and after a very long and eloquent sermon called Imam Ali (a) to himself. Then holding the two hands of Imam Ali (a) in his own hands, he raised them so high that the whiteness of his armpit became completely visible. He then declared,

“Of whomsoever I am the master, then this Ali is his master. O Allah, be the friend of one who befriends him, and be the enemy of one who is his enemy.”

As soon as the people heard this, they raised their supporting voices. Rasulullah (s) came down from the pulpit and ordered Imam Ali (a) to accept the congratulations and allegiance of the companions in a green tent.

This narration shows us the importance of *wilayah*. Had Rasulullah (s) not announced the *wilayah* of Imam Ali (a) then the rest of his prophethood, including the introduction of *salah*, would not have been accepted.

Importance of *salah*

Salah has been mentioned directly more than 120 times in the Holy Qur'an. In addition to this, thousands of *ahadith* also talk about *salah*. The sheer number of times it has been mentioned points to its importance and significance in our daily lives. It is the most beloved act of worship to Allah.



As the famous *hadith* of Rasulullah (S) says:

Verily the pillar of religion is the *salah*. It is the first thing to be considered from amongst the deeds of man, so if his *salah* is valid, the rest of his deeds will be considered, and if his *salah* is void, then the rest of his deeds will not be taken into consideration.



Lesson 6 mentioned a few basic benefits of praying *salah*. As a reminder, they are:

- 1 *Salah* gives an opportunity to get closer to Allah by communicating with Him.
- 2 *Salah* keeps one away from sins.
- 3 *Salah* gives rest to the heart.
- 4 *Salah* is the best exercise of free will.

We hear in every *adhan* and *iqamah* that we should hasten to the 'best deed', which is the *salah* (*hayya ala khayril amal*).



Salah teaches discipline and punctuality

Another very important benefit of *salah* is that it teaches discipline and punctuality. Each prayer has a designated start and end time, and the best time to pray is at the start of that particular prayer time. This is known as *awwal al-waqt*. By praying at the earliest time, we are showing with our actions that Allah is the most important thing in our lives, and we are willing to drop all other tasks to stand before Him.

Going back to the plane analogy from previous lessons, the plane must take off on time to avoid missing the take off slot. If it misses the slot then the rest of the timetable becomes spoiled and this creates lots of other problems and inconveniences. There is a ripple effect. Similarly, when *salah* is made *qadha*, it has negative effects in the rest of our life, even though we may be unaware of them. Allah wants us to be protected from these effects and so He commands us to pray within the allotted time. Our *a'immah* never missed the best time of prayers, even in the most difficult circumstances, for example during wars.

Allah is so merciful that He gives us a second chance if we miss our *salah*, and allows us to repent and pray *qadha*. We must always remember that it is *wajib* to pray *qadha salah* for any *salah* that is not prayed within the designated time.

Imam Muhammad al-Baqir (a) has said:

If one performs *salah* on time keeping in mind its due importance and does not give preference to anything else, the Almighty writes for him salvation from punishment. And one who recites *salah* after its time has lapsed and prefers worldly affairs to his *salah*, his consequences are in the hands of Allah. He may forgive or punish him.

Missing *salah* intentionally is termed *tark as-salah*. *Wajib* acts are avoided by people who consider them to be insignificant and unimportant. This is like denying Allah, as He has commanded the *wajib* acts, and is a major sin.

In his last moments, Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq (a) has been recorded to have said:

Our intercession will not reach those who consider *salah* as insignificant.

In fact, Rasulullah (s) also repeatedly advised the people around his deathbed about not being neglectful of *salah*.





FIQH FACTS

RULE 1360

It is not necessary to make up daily *salahs* in the order they became *qadha*, except for the *salahs* that must be performed in a particular order when they are performed within their prescribed time, such as *dhuhr* and *asr salahs*, or *maghrib* and *isha salahs*, of the same day.

RULE 1367

As long as one is alive, another person cannot make up prayers on his behalf, even if he is unable to perform his *qadha* prayers himself.



FIQH FACTS

RULE 1370

If one's father has not performed his *salahs* and he could have made them up, in the event that he did not fail to perform them due to outright disobedience, then based on obligatory precaution, after the father's death his eldest son must either perform them himself or hire someone to perform them. The *qadha salahs* of one's mother are not *wajib* on him to perform, although it is better that he does.

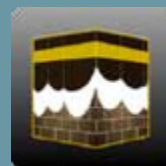


Faith in Action

- 1 With the permission of your guardian, download a *qiblah* app on your tablet or smart phone. Set it to play the *adhan* at the three times of *salah*. Use this reminder to pray *salah* at *waqt al-fadhilah*.



Qibla
Connect



Al-Qibla



iSalam

- 2 The last *ayah* of *Surat al-Kahf* (18:110) is like an alarm clock! Some scholars say that if it is recited before going to sleep, it helps to wake you up at the time of *salah*! Memorise this *ayah* and make a habit of reciting it before bedtime with the intention of waking up for *salah* on time!

Surat al-Kahf (18:110)

قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَنَا بَشَرٌ مِّثْلُكُمْ يُوحَىٰ
إِلَيَّ أَنَّمَا إِلَهُكُمُ إِلَهُ وَاحِدٌ
فَمَن كَانَ يَرْجُوا لِقَاءَ رَبِّهِ
فَلْيَعْمَلْ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا وَلَا
يُشْرِكْ بِعِبَادَةِ رَبِّهِ أَحَدًا

Say: 'I am just a human being like you. It has been revealed to me that your God is the One God. So whoever expects to meet his Lord, let him act righteously, and not associate anyone with the worship of his Lord.'



HIGHER LEVEL

How does one ascertain the *salah* times?

- 1 The time for *fajr salah* is a few minutes after the astronomical morning twilight. This is when the centre of the sun is more than 12 degrees but less than 18 degrees below the horizon.



- 2 When the shadow of an indicator such as a stick placed in the ground begins to get longer eastwards, it is time for *dhuhr*.



- 3 Once the redness in the eastern sky after sunset has passed overhead, it is time for *maghrib*.



Try and answer the following questions about the timing of the daily prayers. Ruling numbers from the Islamic Laws has been given to help you.

- 1 What is the difference between 'the first dawn' (also known as 'false dawn') and 'the second dawn' (also known as 'true dawn'). At which of these times, does the time for *fajr* set in? When does *fajr* become *qadha*? [Islamic Laws 728] Using the internet, see if you can find pictures of what 'first dawn' and 'second dawn' look like.

- 2 The time for *Magrib* and *Isha* prayer is until 'midnight'. In *Fiqh*, this means the middle of the night and not necessarily midnight. Ruling 726 defines what 'night' is. Based on this definition, can you calculate what time *Magrib* and *Isha salah* will get *qadha* today in your town?





KEY POINTS

- 1 *Salah* is the pillar of religion.
- 2 *Salah* is extremely important for our success in this world and the Hereafter.
- 3 It is *wajib* to pray *qadha* for any *salah* that is not prayed within the designated time.
- 4 Delaying *salah* has many negative effects, some of which we can perceive and others that we cannot.

1 Fill in the blanks:

Rasulullah (s) said:

“Verily the _____ of religion is the *salah*.
It is the _____ thing to be considered
from amongst the deeds of man, so if his
_____ is valid, the rest
of his deeds will be considered, and if his
_____ is void, then the rest of
his deeds will not be taken into consideration. ”

2 What should one do if they miss a *salah* by mistake?

3 List three consequences you can think of for missing a *salah*; you can use the benefits of *salah* to help you answer.

4 What is the *fiqh* rule regarding the *qadha* prayers of a father who has died and a mother who has died?
