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الأَرْبَعُونَ فِي فَضْلِ الْمَسْجِدِ
الْأَقْصَى الْمُبَارَكِ وَأَهْلِهِ

40 A^¥dith about
the Virtues of the
Blessed al-Masjid al-Aq|¥
and its People

Compiled by
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﴿... إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَا الَّذِي بَرَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ...﴾

“To al-Masjid al-Aq|¥, whose surroundings We have blessed”

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ
وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ



**IN THE NAME OF ALLAH,
THE MOST GRACIOUS,
THE MOST MERCIFUL**

O Allah send your prayers, peace and blessings upon our Master, Mu^ammad, his family, his Companions and those who follow them with excellence till the Day of Judgement.

﴿سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِّنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَا
الَّذِي بَرَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ لِنُرِيَهُ مِنْ آيَاتِنَا إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ﴾

سُورَةُ الْاِسْرَاءِ: ١



“Glory be to the One Who took His servant by night from al-Masjid al-Haram (in Makkah) to al-Masjid al-Aqsa (in Al-Quds), whose surroundings We have blessed, to show him some of Our signs. Indeed, He is the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing.”

[The Noble Qur’an, 17:1]

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

« وَلَنْعَمَ الْمِصْلَى هُوَ »

[رَوَاهُ الْحَاكِمُ]



The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said,
“And what an amazing place of worship it is!”

[Al-ḥākim]

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INTENTION

The following intention was penned by the illustrious scholar of Tarīm, ḥāramaut in Yemen, Imʿm Sayyid ‘Abdullah ibn ‘Alawī al-ḥaddāḍ (1634-1720), may Allah have mercy upon him:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَصَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلَّمَ
 نَوَيْتُ التَّعَلَّمَ وَالتَّعْلِيمَ وَالتَّذْكَرَ وَالتَّذْكَرَ وَالتَّنْفِيعَ وَالتَّنْفِيعَ وَالتَّوْبَةَ وَالتَّوْبَةَ وَالتَّوْبَةَ وَالتَّوْبَةَ
 بِكِتَابِ اللَّهِ وَسُنَّةِ رَسُولِهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَالدُّعَاءَ إِلَى الْهُدَى وَالدَّلَالَةَ عَلَى الْخَيْرِ وَابْتِغَاءَ وَجْهِ
 اللَّهِ وَمَرْضَاتِهِ وَقُرْبِهِ وَثَوَابِهِ سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى

In the Name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Compassionate.

All praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. And may Allah shower salutations and greetings upon our master Muḥammad and upon his family and companions. I intend to study and teach. To take and give a reminder. To take and give benefit. To take and give advantage. To encourage the holding fast to the book of Allah and the way of His Messenger, may Allah shower salutations and greetings upon him. Calling to guidance and directing towards good. Hoping for the countenance of Allah and His pleasure, proximity and reward, Glorified and blessed be He. ʿmīn!

T

he intention for compiling this ḥadīth collection on the numerous virtues of the Blessed al-Masjid al-Aqṣā in the holy city of al-Quds and its people is to first and foremost please our Lord ﷻ and His Beloved Messenger ﷺ. We hope to do this by raising the awareness amongst ourselves and people at large of their weighty rank and status in the Muslim

Ummah in the light of the Noble Qurʿān and sayings of our beloved Prophet ﷺ. We pray that Allah ﷻ accepts this small and humble endeavour and overlooks our shortcomings, ʿmīn!

Syed Yasrab Daud Shah,
 Director of Fundraising Muslim Hands
 Jumʿdal-ḥīrah 1442
 February 2021

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

INTRODUCTION

The Blessed al-Masjid al-Aqṣā literally means ‘the Furthest Masjid’ but also carries the connotations of being far removed and distant from sins. It is also referred to in ṣadīth literature as Bait al-Maqdis or al-Bait al-Muqaddas, ‘the Holy House’, which scholars indicate has the spiritual meaning of a place of purification of sins in al-Arḍ al-Muqaddasah, ‘the Holy Land’ [The Noble Qur’ān, 5:21].

It is the only Masjid mentioned by name in the Noble Qur’ān [17:1] besides the Ka’bah, which is also referred to as al-Masjid al-ḥarām, ‘the Sacred Masjid’. It is the first Qiblah (prayer direction) for Muslims and is the second oldest Masjid on planet Earth after the Ka’bah. It represents the destination of the Prophet’s ﷺ miraculous Night Journey (al-Isrā’) from Makkah to ‘the Holy’ city of al-Quds (Jerusalem, which in Arabic carries the meaning of ‘the neighbourhood or abode of peace’) and the place of his heavenly ascent (al-Mi’rāj). It is also believed that our actions and souls ascend from this point and that it is the divine gateway from Earth into the heavens.

Al-Masjid al-Aqṣā is the only place on Earth where all the Messengers and Prophets, peace be upon them all gathered and then prayed behind their beloved Imām, the Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ. It is placed in the heart of Shām, a land that Allah ﷻ refers to as a place that “We have blessed”. It is highly respected and revered by all three Abrahamic faiths as alluded to by Allah ﷻ Himself in the following ḡyah:

﴿وَنَجَّيْنَاهُ وَلُوطًا إِلَى الْأَرْضِ الَّتِي بَارَكْنَا فِيهَا لِلْعَالَمِينَ﴾

سُورَةُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ: ٧١

“Then We delivered him (Ibrāhīm عليه السلام), along with (his nephew) Lūṭ عليه السلام,
(from ‘Irāq) to the land (al-Quds) that We have blessed for all people.”

[The Noble Qur’ān, 21:71]

It is a sacred place of revelations, miracles and blessings throughout human history and countless Prophets and Messengers, peace be upon them all, lived and are buried there.

We pray that Allah ﷻ gives us the ability to truly appreciate this place and its noble people in accordance with the following beautiful Ayah:

﴿ذَلِكَ وَمَنْ يُعْظِمِ شَعَائِرَ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّهَا مِنْ تَقْوَى الْقُلُوبِ﴾

سُورَةُ الْحَجِّ: ٣٢

**“That [is so]. And whoever honours the symbols of Allah
– for indeed, it is from the piety of hearts.”**

[The Noble Qur’ān, 22:32]

SECTION 1: THE TWO QIBLAHS



ḥadīth 1

THE TWO OLDEST MASJIDS ON EARTH

عَنْ أَبِي ذَرٍّ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قُلْتُ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ أَيُّ مَسْجِدٍ وُضِعَ أَوَّلُ؟ قَالَ:
« الْمَسْجِدُ الْحَرَامُ » قُلْتُ: ثُمَّ أَيٌّ؟ قَالَ: « ثُمَّ الْمَسْجِدُ الْأَقْصَى » قُلْتُ: كَمْ كَانَ بَيْنَهُمَا؟ قَالَ:
« أَرْبَعُونَ » ثُمَّ قَالَ: « حَيْثُمَا أَدْرَكَتْكَ الصَّلَاةُ فَصَلِّ وَالْأَرْضُ لَكَ مَسْجِدٌ »

[رَوَاهُ الْبُخَارِيُّ]

On the authority of Abḥ Dharr رضي الله عنه who said,
'I said, 'O Messenger of Allah, which masjid was built first?' He said,

"The Sacred Masjid (al-Masjid al-ḥarām in Makkah)." I said, 'And then which one?' He said, 'And then the Furthest Masjid (al-Masjid al-Aqṣā in al-Quds)¹. I said, 'What was the period between them?' He said, "Forty (years)." He then said, "Wherever the time for the prayer comes upon you, then pray, for the earth is a place of prostration (masjid) for you."

[Al-Bukhārī]

¹ The Prophet ﷺ was miraculously taken from the Sacred Masjid referred to as the Ancient House (al-Bait 'al-Atīq – please see The Noble Qur'ān, 22:29 and 33) in Makkah to al-Masjid al-Aqṣā referred to as the Holy House (Bait al-Maqdis) in al-Quds (Jerusalem). Then thereafter into the heavens on al-Isrā' wal-Mir'aj, the Night Journey and Ascension. This took place approximately one year before his migration to al-Madīnah and the dominant opinion is that this was on 27th Rajab according to Imḥm an-Nawawī (RH). This is famously recounted in the following ḥayah:

« سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَا الَّذِي بَدَرْنَا حَوْلَهُ لِنُرِيَهُ مِنْ عَائِنَتِنَا إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ ﴿١٧﴾
سُورَةُ الْإِسْرَاءِ: ١

"Glory be to the One Who took His servant by night from al-Masjid al-ḥarām (in Makkah) to Masjid al-Aqṣā (in Al-Quds), whose surroundings We have blessed, to show him some of Our signs. Indeed, He is the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing."

[The Noble Qur'ān, 17:1]

Hadith 2

ETIQUETTES WITH THE TWO QIBLAHS

عَنْ مَعْقِلِ بْنِ أَبِي مَعْقِلٍ الْأَسَدِيِّ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ:
نَهَى رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَنْ نَسْتَقْبِلَ الْقِبْلَتَيْنِ بِبَوْلٍ أَوْ غَائِطٍ.

[رَوَاهُ أَبُو دَاوُدَ]

On the authority of Ma'qil ibn Abī Ma'qil al-Asadī رضي الله عنه who said,
'The Messenger of Allah ﷺ forbade us from facing the two Qiblahs
at the time of urination or excretion.'

[Ab%o D¥w%od]

ḥadīth 3

AL-MASJID AL-AQSA, THE FIRST QIBLAH

عَنْ أَبِي إِسْحَاقَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: سَمِعْتُ الْبَرَاءَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ يَقُولُ:

صَلَّيْنَا مَعَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ نَحْوَ بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ سِتَّةَ عَشَرَ شَهْرًا
أَوْ سَبْعَةَ عَشَرَ شَهْرًا ثُمَّ صُرِفْنَا نَحْوَ الْكَعْبَةِ.

[رَوَاهُ مُسْلِمٌ]

On the authority of Ab%o Is^aq who said, 'I heard al-Bar% say,
'We prayed with the Messenger of Allah towards Bait al-Maqdis² for sixteen months or
seventeen months. Then we were made to change (our direction) towards the Ka'bah.'

[Muslim]

² When the Messenger of Allah was in Makkah before the migration to al-Madīnah, he would put the Ka'bah in front of him when he prayed towards the Blessed al-Masjid al-Aq% to the north. It is believed that he prayed behind the southern corner of the Ka'bah, which is called ar-Rukn al-Yam%nī (the Yemeni corner). This is alluded to in the following ḥadīth:

On the authority of Ibn 'Abb%s, may Allah be pleased with both of them who said,

'The Prophet used to pray, while he was in Makkah, towards Bait al-Maqdis, putting the Ka'bah in front of him.
He stayed [praying towards Bait al-Maqdis] after his migration for 16 months, then he was turned [by Allah] towards the Ka'bah.'

[A^mad]

However, when he migrated to al-Madīnah to the north of Makkah, he was unable to do this so Allah changed the Qiblah for His Beloved Messenger.

ḥadīth 4

AL-MASJID AL-AQSA, THE FIRST QIBLAH FURTHER EXPLAINED

عَنِ الْبَرَاءِ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ:

صَلَّيْنَا مَعَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ نَحْوَ بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ ثَمَانِيَةَ عَشَرَ شَهْرًا وَصُرِفَتِ الْقِبْلَةُ إِلَى الْكَعْبَةِ بَعْدَ دُخُولِهِ إِلَى الْمَدِينَةِ بِشَهْرَيْنِ وَكَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ إِذَا صَلَّى إِلَى بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ أَكْثَرَ تَقَلُّبَ وَجْهِهِ فِي السَّمَاءِ وَعَلِمَ اللَّهُ مِنْ قَلْبِ نَبِيِّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَنَّهُ يَهْوَى الْكَعْبَةَ فَصَعِدَ جِبْرِيلُ فَجَعَلَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يُتْبِعُهُ بَصَرَهُ وَهُوَ يَصْعَدُ بَيْنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ يَنْظُرُ مَا يَأْتِيهِ بِهِ فَأَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ:

﴿ قَدْ نَرَى تَقَلُّبَ وَجْهِكَ فِي السَّمَاءِ... ﴾ [سُورَةُ الْبَقَرَةِ: ١٤٤]

الآيَةَ فَأَتَانَا آتٍ فَقَالَ: إِنَّ الْقِبْلَةَ قَدْ صُرِفَتْ إِلَى الْكَعْبَةِ وَقَدْ صَلَّيْنَا رُكْعَتَيْنِ إِلَى بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ وَنَحْنُ رُكُوعٌ فَتَحَوَّلْنَا فَبَنَيْنَا عَلَى مَا مَضَى مِنْ صَلَاتِنَا فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

« يَا جِبْرِيلُ كَيْفَ حَالُنَا فِي صَلَاتِنَا إِلَى بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ »

فَأَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ:

﴿ ... وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيُضَيِّعَ إِيمَانَكُمْ... ﴾ [سُورَةُ الْبَقَرَةِ: ١٤٣]

[رَوَاهُ ابْنُ مَاجَةَ]

ḥadīth 4

AL-MASJID AL-AQSA, THE FIRST QIBLAH FURTHER EXPLAINED

On the authority of al-Barʿīؓ who said,

‘We prayed with the Messenger of Allahﷺ facing towards Bait al-Maqdis (al-Masjid al-Aqṣā) for eighteen months, then the Qiblah (prayer direction) was changed to the Ka’bah two months after the Prophet ﷺ entered al-Madīnah. When the Messenger of Allahﷺ prayed towards Bait al-Maqdis, he would often lift his face towards the sky, and Allah knew what was in the heart of His Prophetﷺ and that he longed to face the Ka’bah [during prayer]. Jibrīlؑ [جبرئيل] appeared (in the sky), and the Messenger of Allah ﷺ started watching him as he was descending between the sky and the earth, waiting to see what he would bring. Then Allah revealed the words,

‘Verily, We have seen the turning of your face towards the sky. [Surely, We shall turn you to a Qiblah that shall please you, so turn your face in the direction of al-Masjid al-ḥarām (in Makkah). And wherever you people are, turn your faces (during prayer) in that direction]’

[The Noble Qur’ān, 2:144]

Then someone came to us and said, ‘The Qiblah has been changed to the Ka’bah.’ We had performed two Rak’ahs (units of prayer) facing towards Bait al-Maqdis while we were bowing.

So, we turned around, and we continued our prayer. Then the Messenger of Allahﷺ said,

“O Jibrīl! What about our prayer facing towards Bait al-Maqdis?”

Then Allah revealed the words,

‘... And Allah would never make your faith to be lost...’

[The Noble Qur’ān, 2:143]

[Ibn Mʿjah]

ḥadīth 5

A LINK BETWEEN THE KA'BAH AND AL-MASJID AL-AQSA

عَنْ أَبِي سَعِيدٍ الْخُدْرِيِّ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ:
« إِنَّ لِي حَوْضًا مَا بَيْنَ الْكَعْبَةِ وَبَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ أَبْيَضَ مِثْلَ اللَّبَنِ آنِيَتُهُ عَدَدُ
النُّجُومِ وَإِنِّي لَأَكْثَرُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ تَبَعًا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ »
[رَوَاهُ ابْنُ مَاجَةَ]

On the authority of Ab%o Sa'īd al-Khudrīؓ that the Prophetﷺ said,

**“Indeed, I have a Basin, (as large as the distance) between the Ka'bah and Bait al-Maqdis³.
(It is) white like milk, and its vessels are the number of the stars. Indeed, I will surely
be the Prophet with the most followers on the Day of Resurrection.”**

[Ibn M¥jah]

³ The travelling distance between the Ka'bah and Bait al-Maqdis at the time of the Prophetﷺ was a month. This is directly alluded to in the following similarly worded ḥadīth:

عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَمْرٍو رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
« حَوْضِي مَسِيرَةُ شَهْرٍ مَأْوُهُ أَبْيَضُ مِنَ اللَّبَنِ وَرِيحُهُ أَطْيَبُ مِنَ الْمَسْكِ وَكِيْرَانُهُ كُنُجُومِ السَّمَاءِ مَنْ شَرِبَ مِنْهَا فَلَا يَظْمَأُ أَبَدًا »
[رَوَاهُ الْبُخَارِيُّ]

On the authority of 'Abdullah ibn 'Amrؓ who said, 'The Prophetﷺ said,

“My Basin (ḥaw\) is (so large that it takes) a month's journey to cross it. Its water is whiter than milk, and its scent is nicer than musk, and its drinking cups are (as numerous) as the (number of) stars of the sky; and whoever drinks from it, will never be thirsty.”

[Al-Bukh¥rī]

Hadith 6

THE LAST OF THOSE WHO PRAYED TOWARDS BOTH QIBLAHS

عَنْ أَنَسٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ:
لَمْ يَبْقَ مِمَّنْ صَلَّى الْقِبْلَتَيْنِ غَيْرِي.
[رَوَاهُ الْبُخَارِيُّ]

On the authority of Anas⁴ رضي الله عنه who said,

**'No one remains of those who prayed facing both Qiblahs
(al-Quds and Makkah) except me.'**

[Al-Bukhārī]

⁴ The Companion, Anas ibn Malik رضي الله عنه served the Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم from the age of ten for ten years in al-Madīnah. He is believed to have been the last Companion to pass away or at least the last living Companion in Baḥrah. The strongest opinion is that he passed away at the age of one hundred and three and was buried with the small staff, which belonged to the Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم.

ḥadīth 7

THE QIBLAH WITHIN AL-MASJID AL-AQSA

عَنْ عُبَيْدِ بْنِ آدَمَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: سَمِعْتُ عُمَرَ بْنَ الْخَطَّابِ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ يَقُولُ لِكَعْبِ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ: أَيْنَ تُرَى أَنْ أُصَلِّيَ؟ فَقَالَ: إِنْ أَخَذْتَ عَنِّي صَلَّيْتَ خَلْفَ الصَّخْرَةِ فَكَانَتْ الْقُدْسُ كُلُّهَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْكَ. فَقَالَ عُمَرُ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ: ضَاهَيْتَ الْيَهُودِيَّةَ لَا وَلَكِنْ أُصَلِّي حَيْثُ صَلَّى رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ. فَتَقَدَّمَ إِلَى الْقِبْلَةِ فَصَلَّى ثُمَّ جَاءَ فَبَسَطَ رِدَائَهُ فَكَنَسَ الْكُنَاسَةَ فِي رِدَائِهِ وَكَنَسَ النَّاسُ.

[رَوَاهُ أَحْمَدُ]

On the authority of ‘Ubaid ibn [®]dam [ؓ] who said,
‘I heard ‘Umar ibn al-Kha[~]~[ؓ] say to Ka‘b [ؓ],
‘Where do you think I should pray?’ He then said,
**‘If you listen to me, you will pray behind the Rock⁵ and all of al-Quds
(Jerusalem) will be in front of you.’** Then ‘Umar [ؓ] said,
**‘You are suggesting something similar to Judaism,
rather I shall pray where the Messenger of Allah [ؐ] prayed.’**
Then he went forward to the Qiblah and prayed,
then he came and spread his upper garment and swept the place,
collecting garbage in his upper garment, and the people swept it too.

[A^mad]

⁵ The Rock mentioned here is referred to as the Noble Rock, al-βakhrāh al-Musharrafah was most likely the original point of the Qiblah. It is approximately 18 metres long and 8 metres wide and the Masjid of the Dome of the Rock was built over it by the Umayyad Caliph ‘Abdul-Malik ibn Marwān in 71-72 AH. It is believed to be the exact location from which the Prophet [ؐ] ascended into the heavens on the Night Journey and Ascension, al-Isrā’ wal-Mi‘rāj most likely on 27th Rajab, one year before the Hijrah (migration) from Makkah to al-Madīnah. It is also believed that our deeds and souls ascend from here and according to some scholars the Angel Isrāfīl (Raphael) [ؑ] will blow his Trumpet (βtr) to commence the Day of Judgement from this Rock (please see: Mu‘jam al-Buldān by Yaqūt al-ḥamawī [RH]).

Caliph ‘Umar ibn al-Kha[~]~[ؓ] selected the site near the southern wall of the Blessed Masjid al-Aq[ؓ] for the first physical Masjid structure upon entering Jerusalem in 15 AH. It was a simple building that sat on wooden trusses and could accommodate 3,000 worshippers. The grey-domed Qibalī Masjid currently sits on this site in the Noble Sanctuary (al-ḥaram ash-Sharīf).

ḥadīth 8

COMMENCING PILGRIMAGE FROM AL-MASJID AL-AQSA

عَنْ أُمِّ سَلَمَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا زَوْجِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَنَّهَا سَمِعَتْ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ:
« مَنْ أَهَلَ بِحَجَّةٍ أَوْ عُمْرَةٍ مِنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَى إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ وَمَا
تَأَخَّرَ » أَوْ « وَجِبَتْ لَهُ الْجَنَّةُ »

شَكَكَ عَبْدُ اللَّهِ أَيَّتَهُمَا قَالَ. قَالَ أَبُو دَاوُدَ: يَرْحَمُ اللَّهُ وَكَيْعًا أَحْرَمَ مِنْ بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ يَعْنِي إِلَى مَكَّةَ.
[رَوَاهُ أَبُو دَاوُدَ]

On the authority of Umm Salamah, may Allah be pleased with her, the wife of the Prophet ﷺ that she heard the Messenger of Allah ﷺ say, **“If anyone enters into iḥrām for ḥajj or ‘Umrah from al-Masjid al-Aqṣā to the Sacred Masjid, his former and latter sins will be forgiven.”** or **“He will be guaranteed Paradise⁶.”**

The narrator ‘Abdullah ﷺ doubted which of these words he said. Abū Dāwūd (RH) said, ‘May Allah have mercy on Waki’, he put on iḥrām from Bait al-Maqdis, that is, to Makkah.’

[Abū Dāwūd]

⁶ Another version of this appears in the Sunan of Ibn Mājah:

عَنْ أُمِّ سَلَمَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا زَوْجِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَتْ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
« مَنْ أَهَلَ بِعُمْرَةٍ مِنَ بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ كَانَتْ لَهُ كَفَّارَةً لِمَا قَبْلَهَا مِنَ الذُّنُوبِ »
قَالَتْ: فَخَرَجْتُ - أَيُّ مِنْ بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ - بِعُمْرَةٍ [رَوَاهُ ابْنُ مَاجَةَ]

On the authority of Umm Salamah, may Allah be pleased with her, the wife of the Prophet ﷺ who said, ‘The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, **“Whoever begins the call (talbiyah) for ‘Umrah from Bait al-Maqdis, that will be an expiation for him for all his previous sins.”** She said, ‘So I went out.’ Meaning, from Bait al-Maqdis for ‘Umrah.’ [Ibn Mājah]

‘Abdullah ibn ‘Umar, may Allah be pleased with both of them, also did this as is shown in the following ḥadīth:

عَنْ مَالِكِ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ عَنِ الثَّقَفِ عِنْدَهُ أَنَّ عَبْدَ اللَّهِ بْنَ عُمَرَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا أَهَلَ مِنْ إِبِلْيَاءَ. [رَوَاهُ مَالِكٌ]

On the authority of Mālik ﷺ from a reliable source that ‘Abdullah ibn ‘Umar, may Allah be pleased with both of them, once entered iḥrām from Ilyā’ (Jerusalem). [Mālik]

Hadith 9

THE TWO QIBLAHS COMBINING ON THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT

عَنْ أَبِي بَكْرٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ (أَظْنُهُ رَفَعَهُ) قَالَ:

« تُحْشَرُ الْكَعْبَةُ إِلَى بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ مُتَعَلِّقًا بِأَسْتَارِهَا كُلُّ مَنْ حَجَّ وَعَتَمَرَ »

[رَوَاهُ الْفَاكِهِيُّ فِي أَحْبَارِ مَكَّةَ]

On the authority of Ab%o Bakrؓ (which is most likely a Marf%o' tradition) who said,

'The Ka'bah will be gathered to Bait al-Maqdis, with all those who performed the major pilgrimage (hajj) and minor pilgrimage ('Umrah) clinging on to its coverings.'

[Al-F%kihĩ in the narrations about Makkah]

SECTION 2: THE HOLIEST SITES



ḥadīth 10

AL-MASJID AL-AQSA, ONE OF THE THREE MASJIDS TO BE VISITED

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ:
« لَا تُشَدُّ الرَّحَالُ إِلَّا إِلَى ثَلَاثَةِ مَسَاجِدَ: الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ وَمَسْجِدِ الرَّسُولِ
صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَى »

[رَوَاهُ الْبُخَارِيُّ]

On the authority of Ab%o Hurairahؓ that the Prophetؐ said,

**“Mounts are not saddled (i.e. do not set out on a journey) except for three Masjids:
the Masjid of al-Masjid al-ḥarām (in Makkah), the Masjid of the Messenger ﷺ
(in al-Madīnah) and Masjid al-Aqṣā (in al-Quds).”**

[Al-Bukhārī]

ḥadīth 11

AL-MASJID AL-AQSA, A PLACE OF 'ITIKAF

عَنْ حُذَيْفَةَ بْنِ الْيَمَانِ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: إِنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ:

« لَا اِعْتِكَافَ إِلَّا فِي الْمَسَاجِدِ الثَّلَاثَةِ: الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ وَمَسْجِدِ النَّبِيِّ [صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ]

وَمَسْجِدِ بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ »

[رَوَاهُ الْبَيْهَقِيُّ]

On the authority of ḥudhaifah ibn al-Yamān رضي الله عنه who said,
'Indeed, the Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم said,

**“There is no (specific) 'Itikaf (seclusion, expecting greater rewards)
except in three Masjids: al-Masjid al-ḥarām (in Makkah), the Masjid of the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم
(in al-Madīnah) and the Masjid of Bait al-Maqdis (in al-Quds).”**

[Al-Baihaqī]

ḥadīth 12

AN AMAZING PLACE OF WORSHIP

عَنْ أَبِي ذَرٍّ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: تَدَاكَّرْنَا وَنَحْنُ عِنْدَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: أَيُّهُمَا أَفْضَلُ؟ أَمَسْجِدُ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَمْ بَيْتُ الْمَقْدِسِ؟ فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: «صَلَاةٌ فِي مَسْجِدِي أَفْضَلُ مِنْ أَرْبَعِ صَلَوَاتٍ فِيهِ وَلِنَعْمَ الْمَصْلَى هُوَ. وَلْيُوشِكَنَّ لِأَنَّ يَكُونَ لِلرَّجُلِ مِثْلُ شَطْنِ فَرَسِهِ مِنَ الْأَرْضِ حَيْثُ يَرَى مِنْهُ بَيْتَ الْمَقْدِسِ خَيْرًا لَهُ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا جَمِيعًا» قَالَ: أَوْ قَالَ: «خَيْرٌ لَهُ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا وَمَا فِيهَا»

[رَوَاهُ الْحَاكِمُ]

On the authority of Ab%o Dharr% who said,
'We were in discussion and we were with the Messenger of Allah% . (We asked him%),
'Which is better? The Masjid of the Messenger of Allah% or Bait al-Maqdis?'
Then the Messenger of Allah% said,

"One prayer in my Masjid is better than four prayers in it (i.e. Bait al-Maqdis) and what an amazing place of worship it is! Surely, there will soon come a time for a man to have land equivalent to his horse's rope from which he can⁷ Bait al-Maqdis will be better for him than the whole world!"

He (the narrator) said, 'or he [%] said,
"Better for him than the world and everything in it!"

[Al-%kim]

⁷ It is believed that the Blessed Masjid al-Aq% is one of the places of Paradise on earth based upon the following ḥadīth:

عَنْ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا أَنَّهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: « مَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يَنْظُرَ إِلَى بُقْعَةٍ مِنْ بُقَعِ الْجَنَّةِ فَلْيَنْظُرْ إِلَى بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ »

On the authority of Ibn 'Abb%s, may Allah be pleased with both of them that he said, 'The Messenger of Allah% said,
"Whoever wants to see one of the places of Paradise then let him look at Bait al-Maqdis (in al-Quds)."

ḥadīth 13

VOWING TO PRAY IN AL-MASJID AL-AQSA

عَنْ جَابِرِ بْنِ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ أَنَّ رَجُلًا قَامَ يَوْمَ الْفَتْحِ فَقَالَ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ إِنِّي نَذَرْتُ لِلَّهِ أَنْ فَتَحَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكَ مَكَّةَ أَنْ أُصَلِّيَ فِي بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ رَكْعَتَيْنِ. قَالَ: « صَلِّ هَا هُنَا » ثُمَّ أَعَادَ عَلَيْهِ فَقَالَ: « صَلِّ هَا هُنَا » ثُمَّ أَعَادَ عَلَيْهِ فَقَالَ: « شَأْنُكَ إِذَا »

[رَوَاهُ أَبُو دَاوُدَ]

On the authority of Jābir ibn ‘Abdullah رضي الله عنه that a man stood on the Day of Conquest (of Makkah) and said, ‘O Messenger of Allah, I have vowed to Allah that if He grants conquest of Makkah to you, I shall pray two Rak’ahs in Bait al-Maqdis⁸.’

He said, **“Pray here.”** Then he repeated (his statement) to him and he said, **“Pray here.”** He then repeated (his statement) to him.

He [the Prophet ﷺ] said, **“Pursue your own course.”**

[Abū Dāwūd]

⁸This desire of the Companions رضي الله عنهم vowing to visit and pray in the Blessed Masjid al-Aqsa is also shown in following ḥadīth:

عَنْ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا أَنَّهُ قَالَ: إِنَّ امْرَأَةً اشْتَكَّتْ شَكْوَى فَقَالَتْ: إِنَّ شَفَاعِي اللَّهِ لِأَخْرَجَنِي فَأُلْصِقِينَ فِي بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ. فَبَرَأَتْ ثُمَّ تَجَهَّزَتْ تُرِيدُ الْخُرُوجَ فَجَاءَتْ مِيمُونَةَ زَوْجِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ تُسَلِّمُ عَلَيْهِمَا فَأَخْبَرَتْهَا ذَلِكَ فَقَالَتْ: اجْلِسِي فُكُلِي مَا صَنَعْتُ وَصَلِّي فِي مَسْجِدِ الرَّسُولِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَإِنِّي سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ:

« صَلَاةٌ فِيهِ أَفْضَلُ مِنْ أَلْفِ صَلَاةٍ فِيَمَا سِوَاهُ مِنَ الْمَسَاجِدِ إِلَّا مَسْجِدَ الْكَعْبَةِ »

[رَوَاهُ مُسْلِمٌ]

On the authority of Ibn ‘Abbās, may Allah be pleased with both of them, that he said, ‘That a woman fell ill, and she said, ‘If Allah cures me then I will most certainly leave and pray in Bait al-Maqdis.’ Then she recovered and so she made preparations to go out (to that place). She came to Maimūnah [may Allah be pleased with her], the wife of the Prophet ﷺ and after greeting her she informed her about that, whereupon she said, ‘Be seated and eat the provision, which you had made and pray in the Masjid of the Messenger ﷺ .

For indeed, I heard the Messenger of Allah ﷺ say,

“Prayer in it is better than a thousand prayers observed in other masjids except the Masjid of the Ka’bah.”

[Muslim]

Hadith 14

THE DAJJAL CANNOT ENTER AL-MASJID AL-AQSA

عَنْ جُنَادَةَ بْنِ أَبِي أُمَيَّةَ الْأَزْدِيِّ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: ذَهَبْتُ أَنَا وَرَجُلٌ مِنَ الْأَنْصَارِ إِلَى رَجُلٍ مِنْ أَصْحَابِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَقُلْنَا: حَدِّثْنَا مَا سَمِعْتَ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَذْكُرُ فِي الدَّجَالِ وَلَا تُحَدِّثْنَا عَنْ غَيْرِهِ وَإِنْ كَانَ عِنْدَكَ مُصَدَّقًا قَالَ: خَطَبَنَا النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَقَالَ:

« أَنْذِرْكُمْ الدَّجَالَ ثَلَاثًا فَإِنَّهُ لَمْ يَكُنْ نَبِيًّا قَبْلِي إِلَّا قَدْ أَنْذَرَ أُمَّتَهُ وَإِنَّهُ فِيكُمْ أَيَّتُهَا الْأُمَّةُ وَإِنَّهُ جَعَدَ آدَمَ مَمْسُوحُ الْعَيْنِ الْيُسْرَى مَعَهُ جَنَّةٌ وَنَارٌ فَنَارُهُ جَنَّةٌ وَجَنَّتُهُ نَارٌ وَمَعَهُ جَبَلٌ مِنْ خُبْرٍ وَهَرٌّ مِنْ مَاءٍ وَإِنَّهُ يُمَطِّرُ الْمَطَرَ وَلَا يُنْبِتُ الشَّجَرَ وَإِنَّهُ يُسَلِّطُ عَلَى نَفْسٍ فَيَتَلْفُهَا لَا يُسَلِّطُ عَلَى غَيْرِهَا وَإِنَّهُ يَمْكُثُ فِي الْأَرْضِ أَرْبَعِينَ صَبَاحًا يَبْلُغُ فِيهَا كُلَّ مَنْهَلٍ وَلَا يَقْرُبُ أَرْبَعَةَ مَسَاجِدَ: مَسْجِدَ الْحَرَامِ وَمَسْجِدَ الْمَدِينَةِ وَمَسْجِدَ الطُّورِ وَالْمَسْجِدَ الْأَقْصَى وَمَا يُشَبَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ فَإِنَّ رَبَّكُمْ لَيْسَ بِأَعْوَرَ »

[رَوَاهُ أَحْمَدُ]

ḥadīth 14

THE DAJJAL CANNOT ENTER AL-MASJID AL-AQSA

On the authority of Junḏah ibn Abī Umayyah al-Azdīؓ who said, 'I went, a man from the Anḷr (Helpers from al-Madīnah) and me to a man from the Companions of the Prophetﷺ and we said, 'inform us of what you heard from the Prophet ﷺ about what he mentioned about the Dajjāl (Antichrist) and don't tell us about other than him what you have confirmed to be true.' He said, 'The Prophet ﷺ delivered a sermon to us and said,

"I warn you about the Dajjāl (Antichrist) – three times. There has not been a Prophet before me except that he warned his nation. Indeed, he is in your midst O nation. He is curly haired and dark skinned with an abraded left eye. He has with him a garden and a fire. His fire is a garden, and his garden is fire. He has with him a mountain of bread and a river of water and he causes it to rain, and he does not cultivate the trees. He will be given power over a person who he will kill but he will have no power over anyone else. Indeed, he will remain on the Earth for forty mornings, in which time he will enter every watering place in it, but he will not be able to approach four masjids: [1] the Masjid al-ḥarām (the Ka'bah in Makkah), [2] the Masjid of al-Madīnah, [3] the Masjid of a~->%or (in Sinai) and [4] al-Masjid al-Aqḷ. And it should not be obscure for you that indeed your Lord is not one-eyed."

[A^mad]

SECTION 3: VIRTUES OF AL-MASJID AL-AQSA



ḥadīth 15

DEGREES OF VIRTUE

عَنْ جَابِرِ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

« صَلَاةٌ فِي الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ بِمِائَةِ أَلْفِ صَلَاةٍ وَصَلَاةٌ فِي مَسْجِدِي أَلْفُ صَلَاةٍ وَصَلَاةٌ فِي الْبَيْتِ
الْمَقْدِسِ خَمْسِمِائَةُ صَلَاةٍ »

[رَوَاهُ الطَّبْرَانِيُّ]

On the authority of Jābir رضي الله عنه who said, 'The Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم said,

“A prayer in the Sacred Masjid (al-Masjid al-ḥarām) is (equal to) one hundred thousand prayers. A prayer in my Masjid (in al-Madīnah) is (equal to) one thousand prayers and a prayer in al-Bait al-Maqdis (in al-Quds) is (equal to) five hundred prayers.”

[A~->abarññ]

⁹ An extraordinary ḥadīth states praying in the Blessed Masjid al-Aqṣā is equal to fifty thousand prayers:

عَنْ أَنَسِ بْنِ مَالِكٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
« صَلَاةُ الرَّجُلِ فِي بَيْتِهِ بِصَلَاةٍ وَصَلَاتُهُ فِي مَسْجِدِ الْقَبَائِلِ بِخَمْسٍ وَعِشْرِينَ صَلَاةً وَصَلَاتُهُ فِي الْمَسْجِدِ الَّذِي يُجْمَعُ فِيهِ بِخَمْسِمِائَةِ صَلَاةٍ وَصَلَاةٌ فِي
الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَى بِخَمْسِينَ أَلْفَ صَلَاةٍ وَصَلَاةٌ فِي مَسْجِدِي بِخَمْسِينَ أَلْفَ صَلَاةٍ وَصَلَاةٌ فِي الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ بِمِائَةِ أَلْفِ صَلَاةٍ »
[رَوَاهُ ابْنُ مَاجَةَ]

On the authority of Anas ibn Mālik رضي الله عنه who said, 'The Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم said,

“A man’s prayer in his house is equal (in reward) to one prayer; a prayer in the masjid of the tribes is equal to twenty-five prayers; a prayer in the masjid in which the Friday prayer is offered is equal to five-hundred prayers; a prayer in al-Masjid al-Aqṣā is equal to fifty thousand prayers; a prayer in my Masjid is equal to fifty thousand prayers; and a prayer in the Sacred Masjid is equal to one hundred thousand prayers.”

[Ibn Mājah]

SERVING THE SACRED SANCTUARY OF AL-MASJID AL-AQSA

عَنْ مَيْمُونَةَ بِنْتِ سَعْدِ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا مَوْلَاةِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَنَّهَا قَالَتْ: يَا نَبِيَّ اللَّهِ أَفْتِنَا فِي بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ.

قَالَ: « أَرْضُ الْمَنْشَرِ وَالْمَحْشَرِ ائْتَوْهُ فَصَلُّوا فِيهِ فَإِنَّ صَلَاةً فِيهِ كَأَلْفِ صَلَاةٍ فِيَمَا سِوَاهُ »

قَالَتْ: أَرَأَيْتَ مَنْ لَمْ يُطِيقْ أَنْ يَتَحَمَّلَ إِلَيْهِ أَوْ يَأْتِيَهُ. قَالَ:

« فَلْيُهْدِ إِلَيْهِ زَيْتًا يُسْرَجُ فِيهِ فَإِنَّ مَنْ أَهْدَى لَهُ كَانَ كَمَنْ صَلَّى فِيهِ »

[رَوَاهُ أَحْمَدُ]

On the authority of Maimoonah bint Sa'd, may Allah be pleased with her, the freed slave of the Prophet ﷺ who said, 'O Prophet of Allah, inform us about Bait al-Maqdis (in al-Quds).' He said, "It is the land of Resurrection (al-Manshar) and Congregation (al-Ma[^]shar). Visit it and pray in it¹⁰. For indeed prayer in it is like a thousand prayers in other than it." She further asked, 'If one of us cannot visit it, what should we do?' He ﷺ said, "Then he should make a gift of some oil to be lit therein [in its lamps]. For indeed the one who gifts this to it [Masjid al-Aq^ṣ] will be like the one who has prayed therein¹¹."

[Ahmad]

¹⁰ Likewise, the following ḥadīth urges us to go to al-Masjid al-Aq^ṣ:

On the authority of Dhī al-A^ḥbi^ṣbi^ṣ who said, 'I said, 'O Messenger of Allah! If we are tested with remaining after you, where do you order us (to go)? He ﷺ said, "Go to Bait al-Maqdis, for perhaps you will have offspring who will commit themselves to that Masjid and visit it."

[A[^]mad]

عَنْ ذِي الْأَصَابِعِ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قُلْتُ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ إِنْ ابْتَلَيْتَنَا بَعْدَكَ بِالْبَقَاءِ أَيْنَ تَأْمُرُنَا؟ قَالَ: « عَلَيْكَ بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ، فَلَعَلَّهُ أَنْ يَنْشَأَ لَكَ ذُرِّيَّةٌ يَغْدُونَ إِلَى ذَلِكَ الْمَسْجِدِ وَيُرْوَحُونَ »

[رَوَاهُ أَحْمَدُ]

¹¹ These are truly Prophetic words of hope and incredible reward. They are very much in the same spirit of the reward for praying in Masjid Qub^ṣ being equivalent to performing 'Umrah. They were stated at a time where the Muslim community in al-Madīnah were not allowed to travel to Makkah to perform ḥajj or 'Umrah:

On the authority of Sahl ibn ḥunaif who said, 'The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "Whoever purifies himself in his house, then comes to Masjid Qub^ṣ and offers one prayer therein, will have a reward like that for 'Umrah."

[Ibn M^ṣjah]

عَنْ سَهْلِ بْنِ حُنَيْفٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: « مَنْ تَطَهَّرَ فِي بَيْتِهِ ثُمَّ أَتَى مَسْجِدَ قُبَاءٍ فَصَلَّى فِيهِ صَلَاةً كَانَ لَهُ كَأَجْرِ عُمْرَةٍ »

[رَوَاهُ ابْنُ مَاجَةَ]

SUPPORTING AL-MASJID AL-AQSA

عَنْ مَيْمُونَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا مَوْلَاةَ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَتْ: قُلْتُ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ أَفْتِنَا فِي بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ. قَالَ:

« أَرْضُ الْمَحْشَرِ وَالْمَنْشَرِ ائْتَوْهُ فَصَلُّوا فِيهِ فَإِنَّ صَلَاةً فِيهِ كَأَلْفِ صَلَاةٍ فِي غَيْرِهِ »

قُلْتُ: أَرَأَيْتَ إِنْ لَمْ أَسْتَطِعْ أَنْ أَتَحْمَلَ إِلَيْهِ. قَالَ:

« فَتَهْدِي لَهُ زَيْتًا يُسْرَجُ فِيهِ فَمَنْ فَعَلَ ذَلِكَ فَهُوَ كَمَنْ أَتَاهُ »

[رَوَاهُ ابْنُ مَاجَةَ]

On the authority of Maimoonah, may Allah be pleased with her, the freed slave of the Prophet ﷺ who said, 'I said, 'O Messenger of Allah tell us about Bait al-Maqdis.' He said,

"It is the land of Congregation (al-Ma^{sh}ar) and Resurrection (al-Manshar).

Go there and pray in it, for one prayer there is like one thousand prayers elsewhere."

I said, 'What if I cannot travel and go there?' He said,

"Then send a gift to it of some oil to be lit therein [in its lamps],

for whoever does that is like one who went there¹²."

[A^hmad]

¹² Another version of this ḥadīth in Sunan Abū Dāwūd reads:

عَنْ مَيْمُونَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا مَوْلَاةَ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَمَّا قَالَتْ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ أَفْتِنَا فِي بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ. فَقَالَ:

« ائْتَوْهُ فَصَلُّوا فِيهِ - وَكَانَتْ الْبِلَادُ إِذْ ذَلِكَ حَرْبًا - فَإِنْ لَمْ تَأْتَوْهُ وَتُصَلُّوا فِيهِ فَابْعَثُوا بِزَيْتٍ يُسْرَجُ فِي قَنَادِيلِهِ »

[رَوَاهُ أَبُو دَاوُدَ]

On the authority of Maimoonah, may Allah be pleased with her, the freed slave of the Prophet ﷺ who said, 'O Messenger of Allah tell us a legal injunction about (visiting) Bait al-Maqdis.' So, he said,

**"Go to it and pray in it – all the cities at that time were affected by war –
If you cannot get to it and pray in it, then send some oil to be used in its lamps."**

[Abū Dāwūd]

Another extraordinary ḥadīth mentions other amazing rewards for visiting al-Masjid al-Aqsa:

عَنْ أَنَسِ بْنِ مَالِكٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ:

« مَنْ زَارَ بَيْتَ الْمَقْدِسِ مُحْتَسِبًا أَعْطَاهُ اللَّهُ ثَوَابَ أَلْفِ شَهِيدٍ وَمَنْ زَارَ عَالِمًا فَكَأَنَّما زَارَ بَيْتَ الْمَقْدِسِ وَمَنْ زَارَ بَيْتَ الْمَقْدِسِ مُحْتَسِبًا حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ حَمَمَهُ وَجَسَدَهُ عَلَى النَّارِ »

[رَوَاهُ الْفَرَايِ]

On the authority of Anas ibn Mālik ؓ that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said,

**"Whoever visits Bait al-Maqdis seeking Allah's reward, then Allah will grant him the reward of a thousand martyrs.
And whoever visits a scholar, has the same reward of visiting Bait al-Maqdis. And whoever visits Bait al-Maqdis seeking Allah's reward, then Allah will keep Hellfire from his flesh and body."**

[Al-Fazrī]

MUSA'S ﷺ LOVE FOR AL-MASJID AL-AQSA

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: أُرْسِلَ مَلَكُ الْمَوْتِ إِلَى مُوسَى عَلَيْهِمَا السَّلَامُ فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُ صَكَهُ فَرَجَعَ إِلَى رَبِّهِ. فَقَالَ: أُرْسَلْتَنِي إِلَى عَبْدٍ لَا يُرِيدُ الْمَوْتَ. فَرَدَّ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ عَيْنَهُ وَقَالَ: ارْجِعْ فَقُلْ لَهُ يَضَعُ يَدَهُ عَلَى مَنْ ثَوْرٍ فَلَهُ بِكُلِّ مَا غَطَّتْ بِهِ يَدُهُ بِكُلِّ شَعْرَةٍ سَنَةً. قَالَ أَيُّ رَبِّ تَنْمُ مَاذَا؟ قَالَ: ثُمَّ الْمَوْتُ. قَالَ: فَالآنَ. فَسَأَلَ اللَّهُ أَنْ يُدْنِيَهُ مِنَ الْأَرْضِ الْمُقَدَّسَةِ رَمِيَّةً بِحَجْرٍ. قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

« فَلَوْ كُنْتُ تَمَّ لَأَرِيْتُكُمْ قَبْرَهُ إِلَى جَانِبِ الطَّرِيقِ عِنْدَ الْكَثِيبِ الْأَحْمَرِ »

[رَوَاهُ الْبُخَارِيُّ]

On the authority Ab%o Hurairah ؓ who said, 'The angel of death was sent to M%os%ؓ, peace be upon them both, and when he went to him, he (M%os%ؓ) slapped him severely (spoiling one of his eyes). He (the angel ؓ) went back to his Lord and said, 'You sent me to a slave who does not want to die.' Allah restored his eye and said, 'Go back and tell him (M%os%ؓ) to place his hand over the back of an ox, for he will be allowed to live for a number of years equal to the number of hairs coming under his hand.' [Then the angel ؓ came to him and told him the same]. Then he (M%os%ؓ) said, 'O my Lord! Then what (will happen)?' He said, 'Then death.' He said, 'Then (let it be) now.' Then he asked Allah to bring him near the Sacred Land at a distance of a stone's throw. He (the narrator) said, 'The Messenger of Allah ؓ said,

"If I were there, I would surely show you his grave at the side of the path near the red sand dune"¹³."

[Ibn M%jah]

¹³ The great Messenger of Allah, M%ؓ desperately desired to enter al-Masjid al-Aq% as Allah commanded in the following %yah:

﴿ يَنْقُومُ ادْخُلُوا الْأَرْضَ الْمُقَدَّسَةَ الَّتِي كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَلَا تَرْتَدُّوا عَلَىٰ أَدْبَارِكُمْ فَتَنْقَلِبُوا خَاسِرِينَ ﴾

سُورَةُ الْمَائِدَةِ: ٢١

“(M%ؓ said) ‘O my people! Enter the Holy Land, which Allah has destined for you [to enter].
And do not turn back or else you will become losers.’”

[The Noble Qur’%n, 5:21]

Sadly, his people refused to enter except two men, which led to them all being barred entry into it for forty years (see the Noble Qur’%n, 5:26). In this time, M%ؓ himself passed away with a deep desire to be buried ‘a stone’s throw’ from the Holy Land of al-Masjid al-Aq%.

ḥadīth 19

SUN NOT SETTING FOR YUSHA' عليه السلام ON HIS WAY TO AL-MASJID AL-AQSA

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ أَنَّهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
« إِنَّ الشَّمْسَ لَمْ تُحْبَسْ لِبَشَرٍ إِلَّا لِيُوشَعَ لِيَايِ سَافِرٍ إِلَى بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ »

[رَوَاهُ أَحْمَدُ]

On the authority of Ab%o Hurairah رضي الله عنه that he said, 'The Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم ,
"Indeed the sun was not held back for any man except [the Prophet] Y%osha' عليه السلام ¹⁴]
the nights he travelled to Bait al-Maqdis."

[A^mad]

¹⁴This incident is further explained by the following ḥadīth:

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
« فَعَزَا قَادُئًا لِلْقَرِيَةِ حِينَ صَلَاةِ الْعَصْرِ أَوْ قَرِيبًا مِنْ ذَلِكَ فَقَالَ لِلشَّمْسِ: أَنْتِ مَأْمُورَةٌ وَأَنَا مَأْمُورٌ. اأَلَّهُمَّ احْبِسْهَا عَلَيَّ شَيْئًا. فَحَبَسَتْ عَلَيْهِ حَتَّى فَتَحَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ »
[رَوَاهُ مُسْلِمٌ]

On the authority of Abt Hurairah رضي الله عنه who said, 'The Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم said,
"... So, he (Ytsha' ibn Ntn عليه السلام) marched on and approached a village (al-Quds) at or about the time of the 'A|r
(late afternoon) prayer. He said to the sun, 'You are subservient (to Allah) and so am I. O Allah! Stop it for me a little.'
It was stopped for him until Allah granted him victory ..."

[Muslim]

This is the Prophet Ytsha' (Joshua) عليه السلام the son of Ntn, the son of Ephraim, the son of Ytsuf (Joseph) عليه السلام the son of Yaqt'b (Jacob) عليه السلام the son of Is^q (Isaac) عليه السلام the son of Ibr^hm (Abraham) عليه السلام He is not mentioned directly by name in the Noble Qur'ān but is the young man alluded to who accompanied Mts عليه السلام on his journey to find Kh عليه السلام :

﴿ وَإِذْ قَالَ مُوسَى لِفَتْنِهِ لَآ أَبْرَحُ حَتَّىٰ أَتَّبِعَ مَجْمَعَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ أَوْ أَمْضِيَ حُقُبًا ﴾
سُورَةُ الْكُؤْفِ: ٦٠

"And remember when Mts عليه السلام] said to his young assistant (Ytsha' عليه السلام),
'I will never give up until I reach the junction of the two seas, even if I travel for ages."

[The Noble Qur'ān, 18:60]

SULAIMAN'S ﷺ DU'A

عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَمْرٍو رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ:

« لَمَّا فَرَعَ سُلَيْمَانُ بْنُ دَاوُدَ مِنْ بِنَاءِ بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ سَأَلَ اللَّهَ ثَلَاثًا حُكْمًا يُصَادِفُ حُكْمَهُ وَمُلْكًا لَا

يُنْبَغِي لِأَحَدٍ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ وَلَا يَأْتِي هَذَا الْمَسْجِدَ أَحَدٌ لَا يُرِيدُ إِلَّا الصَّلَاةَ فِيهِ إِلَّا خَرَجَ مِنْ ذُنُوبِهِ كَيَوْمٍ وَلَدَتْهُ أُمُّهُ »

فَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

« أَمَّا اثْنَتَانِ فَقَدْ أُعْطِيَهُمَا وَأَرْجُو أَنْ يَكُونَ قَدْ أُعْطِيَ الثَّلَاثَةَ »

[رَوَاهُ ابْنُ مَاجَةَ]

On the authority of ‘Abdullah ibn ‘Amr ؓ that the Prophet ﷺ said,

“When (the Prophet) Sulaiman ibn Dawood¹⁵ [peace be upon both of them] finished building Bait al-Maqdis, he asked Allah for three things: [1] judgment that was in harmony with His judgment, [2] a dominion that no one would have after him, [3] and that no one should come to this Masjid, intending only to pray in it, except that he would emerge free of sin like the day his mother gave birth to him¹⁶.”

Then the Prophet ﷺ said,

“As for (the first) two (supplications) they were granted, and I hope that the third was also granted.”

[Ibn Majaḥ]

¹⁵ The Prophet Sulaiman's ﷺ presence in and connection with Bait al-Maqdis is clearly indicated in the following ḥadīth:

﴿وَلِسُلَيْمَانَ الرِّيحَ عَاصِفَةً تَجْرِي بِأَمْرِهِ إِلَى الْأَرْضِ الَّتِي بَرَكْنَا فِيهَا وَكُنَّا بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمِينَ﴾

سُورَةُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ: ٨١

“And to Sulaiman [ﷺ] We subjected the raging winds, blowing by his command to the land (Sham) We have blessed. It is We Who know everything.”

[The Noble Qur'an, 21:81]

¹⁶ This in fact is the reward of an accepted ḥajj (ḥajj Mabṭur) as shown in the following ḥadīth:

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: سَمِعْتُ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ

« مَنْ حَجَّ لِلَّهِ فَلَمْ يَرْفُثْ وَلَمْ يَفْسُقْ رَجَعَ كَيَوْمٍ وَلَدَتْهُ أُمُّهُ »

[رَوَاهُ الْبُخَارِيُّ]

On the authority of Abt Hurairah ؓ who said, ‘I heard the Prophet ﷺ say,

“Whoever performs ḥajj for Allah and does not have sexual relations (with his wife) and does not do evil or sins then he will return (after ḥajj free from all sins) like the day his mother gave birth to him.”

[Al-Bukhari]

YAHYA'S عليه السلام KHUTBAH IN AL-MASJID AL-AQSA

عَنِ الْحَارِثِ الْأَشْعَرِيِّ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ:

« إِنَّ اللَّهَ أَمَرَ يُحْيَى بْنَ زَكَرِيَّا بِخَمْسِ كَلِمَاتٍ أَنْ يَعْمَلَ بِهَا وَيَأْمُرَ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَنْ يَعْمَلُوا بِهَا وَإِنَّهُ كَادَ أَنْ يُبْطِئَ بِهَا فَقَالَ عِيسَى: إِنَّ اللَّهَ أَمَرَكَ بِخَمْسِ كَلِمَاتٍ لِتَعْمَلَ بِهَا وَتَأْمُرَ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَنْ يَعْمَلُوا بِهَا فِيمَا أَنْ تَأْمُرُهُمْ وَإِنَّمَا أَنْ أَمَرُهُمْ. فَقَالَ يُحْيَى: أَخْشَى إِنْ سَبَقْتَنِي بِهَا أَنْ يُخَسَفَ بِي أَوْ أُعَذَّبَ فَجَمَعَ النَّاسَ فِي بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ فَاثْمَلًا الْمَسْجِدُ وَتَعَدَّوْا عَلَى الشَّرْفِ فَقَالَ: إِنَّ اللَّهَ أَمَرَنِي بِخَمْسِ كَلِمَاتٍ أَنْ أَعْمَلَ بِهِنَّ وَأَمُرُكُمْ أَنْ تَعْمَلُوا بِهِنَّ أَوْلَهُنَّ أَنْ تَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَلَا تُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا وَإِنْ مَثَلٌ مَنْ أَشْرَكَ بِاللَّهِ كَمَثَلِ رَجُلٍ اشْتَرَى عَبْدًا مِنْ خَالِصِ مَالِهِ بِذَهَبٍ أَوْ وَرِقٍ فَقَالَ: هَذِهِ دَارِي وَهَذَا عَمَلِي فَاعْمَلْ وَأَدِّ إِلَيَّ فَكَانَ يَعْمَلُ وَيُؤَدِّي إِلَيَّ غَيْرَ سَيِّدِهِ فَأَيُّكُمْ يَرْضَى أَنْ يَكُونَ عَبْدُهُ كَذَلِكَ وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ أَمَرَكُمْ بِالصَّلَاةِ فَإِذَا صَلَّيْتُمْ فَلَا تَلْتَفِتُوا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ يَنْصِبُ وَجْهَهُ لَوَجْهِ عَبْدِهِ فِي صَلَاتِهِ مَا لَمْ يَلْتَفِتْ وَأَمَرَكُمْ بِالصِّيَامِ فَإِنَّ مَثَلِ ذَلِكَ كَمَثَلِ رَجُلٍ فِي عِصَابَةٍ مَعَهُ صِرَّةٌ فِيهَا مِسْكٌ فَكُلُّهُمْ يَعْجَبُ أَوْ يُعْجِبُهُ رِيحُهَا وَإِنَّ رِيحَ الصَّائِمِ أَطْيَبُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ مِنْ رِيحِ الْمِسْكِ وَأَمَرَكُمْ بِالصَّدَقَةِ فَإِنَّ مَثَلِ ذَلِكَ كَمَثَلِ رَجُلٍ أَسْرَهُ الْعَدُوَّ فَأَوْثَقُوا يَدَهُ إِلَى عُنُقِهِ وَقَدَّمُوهُ لِيَضْرِبُوهُ عُنُقَهُ فَقَالَ: أَنَا أَقْدِيهِ مِنْكُمْ بِالْقَلِيلِ وَالكَثِيرِ فَقَدِي نَفْسَهُ مِنْهُمْ وَأَمَرَكُمْ أَنْ تَذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ فَإِنَّ مَثَلِ ذَلِكَ كَمَثَلِ رَجُلٍ خَرَجَ الْعَدُوُّ فِي أَثَرِهِ سَرَاعًا حَتَّى إِذَا أَتَى عَلَى حِصْنٍ حَصِينٍ فَأَحْرَزَ نَفْسَهُ مِنْهُمْ كَذَلِكَ الْعَبْدُ لَا يُحْرِزُ نَفْسَهُ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ إِلَّا بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ.

قَالَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: وَأَنَا أَمُرُكُمْ بِخَمْسِ اللَّهِ أَمْرِنِي بِهِنَّ السَّمْعُ وَالطَّاعَةُ وَالْجِهَادُ وَالْهَجْرَةُ وَالْجَمَاعَةُ فَإِنَّهُ مَنْ فَارَقَ الْجَمَاعَةَ قِيدَ شِبْرٍ فَقَدْ خَلَعَ رِبْقَةَ الْإِسْلَامِ مِنْ عُنُقِهِ إِلَّا أَنْ يَرْجِعَ وَمَنْ ادَّعَى دَعْوَى الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ فَإِنَّهُ مِنْ جُنَا جَهَنَّمَ » فَقَالَ رَجُلٌ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَإِنْ صَلَّى وَصَامَ؟ قَالَ: « وَإِنْ صَلَّى وَصَامَ فَادْعُوا بِدَعْوَى اللَّهِ الَّذِي سَمَّاكُمْ الْمُسْلِمِينَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ عِبَادَ اللَّهِ »

[رَوَاهُ التِّرْمِذِيُّ]

YAHYA'S عليه السلام KHUTBAH IN AL-MASJID AL-AQSA

On the authority of al-Harith ibn al-Ash'ari رضي الله عنه that the Prophet ﷺ said,

“Verily, Allah commanded Yaʿqub ibn Zakariyya [peace be upon both of them] with five words to practice and to command the Children of Isrāʾīl to practice. He was nearly slow to act, so ‘-sāʿid عليه السلام] said, ‘Verily, Allah has commanded you with five words to practice and to command the Children of Isrāʾīl to practice, either command them or I will.’ Yaʿqub عليه السلام said, ‘I am afraid if you precede me with them, I will be swallowed by the earth or punished!’ So, he gathered the people in Bait al-Maqdis and the Masjid filled as they sat upon the balcony. Yaʿqub عليه السلام] said, ‘Verily, Allah has commanded me with five words for me to practice and I command you to practice them. [First], that you worship Allah without associating any partners with Him, for the parable of one who associates with Allah is that of a man who purchases a servant with his own gold or currency, and he says, ‘This is my house, and this is my business, so get to work and send me the profits.’ The servant gets to work, but he gives the profits to another master. Which of you would be pleased to have a servant like that? [Second], Allah commands you to pray. If you pray, then do not fidget, for Allah sets His face towards His servant in his prayer as long as he does not fidget. [Third], I command you to fast, for the parable of that is a man amongst others with a satchel of musk. All of them are pleased and enjoy its scent, for the scent of a fasting person is more pleasant to Allah than musk. [Fourth], I command you to give charity, for the parable of that is a man whose enemy has captured him and tied his hands to his neck. As they approach to strike his neck, he says, ‘I will ransom myself for a little or a lot!’ So, he ransoms himself from them. [Fifth], I command you to remember Allah, for the parable of that is a man who goes out with his enemy quickly following his steps, until he comes to a protected fortress and barricades himself from them. Such a servant cannot barricade himself from Satan but by remembering Allah.”

The Prophet ﷺ said,

“And I command you with five words with which Allah commanded me: to listen, to obey, to perform Jihād, to perform emigration, and to unite with the community. For whoever splits away from the community as much as a hand span has cast off the yoke of Islam from his neck until he returns. Whoever calls to the ways of ignorance will surely be among the rubble of Hell.”

A man said, ‘O Messenger of Allah, even if he prays and fasts?’ He (the Prophet ﷺ) said,
“Even if he prays and fasts, so call to the ways of Allah who has named you the Muslims, the believers, the servants of Allah.”

[At-Tirmidhi]

SECTION 4: THE NIGHT JOURNEY AND AL-MASJID AL-AQSA



ḥadīth 22

THE PLACE OF THE PROPHETS

عَنْ أَنَسِ بْنِ مَالِكٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ:

« أُتَيْتُ بِالْبُرَاقِ - وَهُوَ دَابَّةٌ أَبْيَضُ طَوِيلٌ فَوْقَ الْحِمَارِ وَدُونَ الْبُغْلِ يَضَعُ حَافِرَهُ عِنْدَ مُنْتَهَى طَرْفِهِ -
قَالَ: فَرَكِبْتُهُ حَتَّى أَتَيْتُ بَيْتَ الْمَقْدِسِ - قَالَ - فَرَبَطْتُهُ بِالْحَلْقَةِ الَّتِي يَرْتَبُ بِهَا الْأَنْبِيَاءُ - قَالَ - ثُمَّ
دَخَلْتُ الْمَسْجِدَ فَصَلَّيْتُ فِيهِ رَكْعَتَيْنِ ثُمَّ خَرَجْتُ فَجَاءَنِي جِبْرِيلُ - عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ - بِإِنَاءٍ مِنْ خَمْرٍ
وَإِنَاءٍ مِنْ لَبَنٍ فَأَخْتَرْتُ اللَّبَنَ فَقَالَ جِبْرِيلُ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: اخْتَرْتَ الْفِطْرَةَ ... »

[رَوَاهُ مُسْلِمٌ]

On the authority of Anas ibn Mālik رضي الله عنه that the Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم said,

“I was brought al-Burāq – who is a white and long animal, larger than a donkey but smaller than a mule, who would place its hoof a distance equal to the range of its vision. I mounted it and came to Bait al-Maqdis (in al-Quds), then tethered it to the ring used by the Prophets¹⁷. I entered the Masjid and prayed two rak’ahs (units of prayer) in it, and then I came out and Jibrīl عليه السلام brought me a vessel of wine and a vessel of milk. I chose the milk and Jibrīl عليه السلام said, ‘You have chosen the fi~rah (natural state)!...”

[Muslim]

¹⁷ A Masjid has been built where this is believed to have taken place, namely Masjid al-Burāq located by al-Burāq Wall, the Western Wall of the Blessed Masjid al-Aqṣā. In the following ḥadīth it indicates the Angel Jibrīl عليه السلام made the hole to tie al-Burāq there:

عَنْ ابْنِ بُرَيْدَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ عَنْ أَبِيهِ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

« لَمَّا أَنْتَهَيْنَا إِلَى بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ قَالَ جِبْرِيلُ بِإِصْبَعِهِ فَحَرَقَ بِهِ الْحَجَرَ وَشَدَّ بِهِ الْبُرَاقَ »

[رَوَاهُ التِّرْمِذِيُّ]

On the authority of Ibn Buraidah رضي الله عنه from his father رضي الله عنه that the Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم said,

“When we reached Bait al-Maqdis, Jibrīl [عليه السلام] pointed with his finger causing a crack in the rock, and he tied al-Burāq to it.”

[At-Tirmidhī]

THE PROPHET ﷺ LEADS ALL THE PROPHETS IN PRAYER IN AL-MASJID AL-AQSA

عَنْ أَنَسِ بْنِ مَالِكٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ:

« أَتَيْتُ بَدَايَةَ فَوْقَ الْحِمَارِ وَدُونَ الْبَعْلِ خَطْوَهَا عِنْدَ مُنْتَهَى طَرْفِهَا فَرَكِبْتُ وَمَعِيَ جِبْرِيلُ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ فَسِرْتُ فَقَالَ: انزِلْ فَصَلِّ. فَفَعَلْتُ فَقَالَ: أَتَدْرِي أَيْنَ صَلَّيْتَ؟ صَلَّيْتَ بِطَيْبَةَ وَإِلَيْهَا الْمُهَاجِرُ ثُمَّ قَالَ: انزِلْ فَصَلِّ. فَصَلَّيْتُ فَقَالَ: أَتَدْرِي أَيْنَ صَلَّيْتَ؟ صَلَّيْتَ بِطُورِ سَيْنَاءَ حَيْثُ كَلَّمَ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ مُوسَى عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ ثُمَّ قَالَ: انزِلْ فَصَلِّ. فَانزَلْتُ فَصَلَّيْتُ فَقَالَ: أَتَدْرِي أَيْنَ صَلَّيْتَ؟ صَلَّيْتَ بِبَيْتِ حَمٍ حَيْثُ وُلِدَ عِيسَى عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ. ثُمَّ دَخَلْتُ بَيْتَ الْمَقْدِسِ فَجَمَعْتُ لِي الْأَنْبِيَاءَ عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ فَقَدَّمَنِي جِبْرِيلُ حَتَّى أَمَّتْهُمْ ... »

[رَوَاهُ النَّسَائِيُّ]

On the authority of Anas ibn M¥lik ؓ that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said,

“I was brought an animal that was larger than a donkey and smaller than a mule, whose stride could reach as far as it could see. I mounted it, and Jibril ؑ was with me, and I set off. Then he said, ‘Dismount and pray,’ so I did that. He said, ‘Do you know where you have prayed? You have prayed in >aibah (al-Madīnah), which will be the place of the emigration.’ Then he said, ‘Dismount and pray,’ so I prayed. He said, ‘Do you know where you have prayed? You have prayed in Mount Sinai, where Allah, the Mighty and Majestic, spoke to M¥s¥ ؑ.’ Then he said, ‘Dismount and pray,’ so I prayed, and he said, ‘Do you know where you have prayed? You have prayed in Bethlehem, where ‘-s¥ was born.’¹⁸ Then I entered Bait al-Maqdis (in al-Quds) where the Prophets, peace be upon them, were assembled for me, and Jibril [ؑ] brought me forward to lead them in prayer...”

[An-Nas¥’i]

¹⁸ Before the Prophet ﷺ entered Jerusalem, he passed by the grave of the Prophet M¥s¥ ؑ as shown in the following ḥadīth:

عَنْ أَنَسِ بْنِ مَالِكٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ:

« أَتَيْتُ - وَفِي رِوَايَةٍ هَدَابٍ - مَرَرْتُ عَلَى مُوسَى لَيْلَةَ أُسْرِي بِي عِنْدَ الْكُثَيْبِ الْأَحْمَرِ وَهُوَ قَائِمٌ يُصَلِّي فِي قَبْرِهِ »

[رَوَاهُ مُسْلِمٌ]

On the authority of Anas ibn M¥lik ؓ that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said,

“I came – and in the narration transmitted on the authority of Hadd¥b – I happened to pass by M¥s¥ [ؑ] on the night of my Night journey by the red sandhill whilst he was standing praying in his grave.”

[Muslim]

HELL SEEN TO THE EAST OF AL-MASJID AL-AQSA

عَنْ أَبِي سَلَمَةَ بْنِ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَانَ أَنَّ عُبَادَةَ بْنَ الصَّامِتِ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَامَ عَلَى سُورِ بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ الشَّرْقِيِّ
فَبَكَى فَقَالَ بَعْضُهُمْ: مَا يُبْكِيكَ يَا أَبَا الْوَلِيدِ؟ قَالَ:

مِنْ هَا هُنَا أَخْبَرَنَا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَنَّهُ رَأَى رَأَى جَهَنَّمَ.

[رَوَاهُ الطَّبْرَانِيُّ]

On the authority of Ab† Salamah ibn ‘Abdur-Ra^mānؓ that
‘Ub̄dah ibn a|-β̄mit¹⁹ؓ stood on the eastern wall of Bait al-Maqdis and then cried.
So, some of them said, ‘What causes you to cry O Ab† al-Walīd?’ He said,

‘From here the Messenger of Allahؐ informed us that he saw Jahannam (Hell)!’

[A~->abar̄nī]



¹⁹ Ub̄dah ibn a|-β̄mitؓ was the first Islamic judge in Masjid al-Aq|̄, who passed away in Ramlah in 34 AH at the age of 72. He was born in al-Madīnah before Prophethood. He was present at all the battles and conquests of Egypt with ‘Amr ibn al-‘ؓ. Umar ibn al-Kha~̄bؓ appointed him the first Muslim judge over ash-Sh̄m. He is one of the seventy Companions buried in the B̄b ar-Ra^mah (Gateway of Mercy) Cemetery located at the eastern wall of the Blessed Masjid al-Aq|̄ as pictured above.

ALLAH ﷻ REVEALS AL-MASJID AL-AQSA IN MAKKAH FOR THE PROPHET ﷺ

عَنْ جَابِرِ بْنِ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا قَالَ:
سَمِعْتُ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ:

« لَمَّا كَذَّبَنِي قُرَيْشٌ قُمْتُ فِي الْحِجْرِ فَجَلَى اللَّهُ لِي بَيْتَ
الْمَقْدِسِ فَطَفِقْتُ أَخْبِرُهُمْ عَنْ آيَاتِهِ وَأَنَا أَنْظُرُ إِلَيْهِ »

[رَوَاهُ الْبُخَارِيُّ]

On the authority of Jābir ibn ‘Abdullah, may Allah be pleased with both of them who said,
‘I heard the Prophet ﷺ say,

“When the Quraish disbelieved me [concerning my Night Journey], I stood up in al-ḥijr
(the unroofed semi-circular portion of the Ka’bah) and Allah displayed Bait al-Maqdis
before me, and I immediately began informing them (the Quraish) about its signs
while looking at it²⁰.”

[Al-Bukhārī]

²⁰ Further details of this and incidents before this are provided in the following lengthier ḥadīth:

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ
« لَقَدْ رَأَيْتُنِي فِي الْحِجْرِ وَقُرَيْشٌ تَسْأَلُنِي عَنْ مَسْرَأَيَ فَسَأَلْتُنِي عَنْ أَشْيَاءَ مِنْ بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ لَمْ أَتُبْهَا فَكُرِبْتُ كُرْبَةً مَا كُرِبْتُ بِمِثْلِهِ قَطُّ. قَالَ:
فَرَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ لِي أَنْظُرَ إِلَيْهِ مَا يَسْأَلُونِي عَنْ شَيْءٍ إِلَّا أَنْبَأْتُهُمْ بِهِ وَقَدْ رَأَيْتُنِي فِي جَمَاعَةٍ مِنَ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ فَإِذَا مُوسَى قَائِمٌ يُصَلِّي فَإِذَا رَجُلٌ ضَرَبَ جَعْدًا كَأَنَّهُ مِنْ رِجَالِ شُعْوَةَ وَإِذَا عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ - عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ -
قَائِمٌ يُصَلِّي أَقْرَبَ النَّاسِ بِهِنَّ عَزْوَةً بِنُ مَسْعُودِ الثَّقَفِيِّ وَإِذَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ - عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ - قَائِمٌ يُصَلِّي أَشْبَهَ النَّاسَ بِهِنَّ صَاحِبَكُمْ - يَعْنِي نَفْسَهُ -
فَحَانَتِ الصَّلَاةُ فَأَتَمَّتْهُمْ فَلَمَّا فَرَعْتُ مِنَ الصَّلَاةِ قَالَ قَائِلٌ يَا مُحَمَّدُ هَذَا مَالِكٌ صَاحِبُ النَّارِ فَسَلِّمْ عَلَيْهِ. فَالْتَفَتُ إِلَيْهِ فَبَدَأَنِي بِالسَّلَامِ »
[رَوَاهُ مُسْلِمٌ]

On the authority of Abū Hurairah رضي الله عنه who said, ‘The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said,

‘I found myself in the ḥijr and the Quraish were asking me about my Night Journey. I was asked about things pertaining to
Bait al-Maqdis, which I could not preserve (in my mind). I was very much vexed, so vexed as I had never been before.
Then Allah raised it (Bait al-Maqdis) before my eyes. I looked towards it, and I gave them the information about whatever
they questioned me I also saw myself among the group of Prophets. I saw Mūsā عليه السلام standing in prayer and found him
to be a well-built man as if he was a man of the tribe of Shant’ah [the Yemeni men of pure lineage and manly virtue]. I saw
‘Isā عليه السلام standing in prayer, of all of men he had the closest resemblance to ‘Urwah ibn Mas’ūd ath-Thaqaffī رضي الله عنه.
I saw Ibrāhīm عليه السلام standing in prayer; he had the closest resemblance with your companion (the Prophet ﷺ himself) amongst
people. When the time of prayer came, I led them. When I completed the prayer, someone said, ‘Here is Mālik عليه السلام,
the keeper of the Hell, so convey Salāms to him.’ So, I turned to him, but he preceded me in Salāms.”

[Muslim]

ḥadīth 26

ABU BAKR رضي الله عنه EARNS THE TITLE AS-SIDDIQ (THE UPRIGHT)

عَنْ عَائِشَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا قَالَتْ:

لَمَّا أُسْرِيَ بِالنَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَى أَصْبَحَ يَتَحَدَّثُ النَّاسُ بِذَلِكَ فَارْتَدَّ نَاسٌ مِمَّنْ كَانُوا آمَنُوا بِهِ وَصَدَّقُوهُ وَسَعَوْا بِذَلِكَ إِلَى أَبِي بَكْرٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ فَقَالُوا: هَلْ لَكَ فِي صَاحِبِكَ؟ يَزْعُمُ أَنَّهُ أُسْرِيَ بِهِ فِي اللَّيْلِ إِلَى بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ. قَالَ: أَوْ قَالَ ذَلِكَ؟ قَالُوا: نَعَمْ. قَالَ: لَئِنْ كَانَ قَالَ ذَلِكَ لَقَدْ صَدَقَ. قَالُوا: وَتُصَدِّقُهُ أَنَّهُ ذَهَبَ اللَّيْلَةَ إِلَى بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ وَجَاءَ قَبْلَ أَنْ يُصْبِحَ؟ قَالَ: نَعَمْ. إِنِّي لِأُصَدِّقُهُ بِمَا هُوَ أْبَعَدُ مِنْ ذَلِكَ أُصَدِّقُهُ بِخَبَرِ السَّمَاءِ فِي غُدْوَةٍ أَوْ رَوْحَةٍ فَلِذَلِكَ سُمِّيَ أَبُو بَكْرٍ الصِّدِّيقَ.

[رَوَاهُ الْبَيْهَقِيُّ]

On the authority of ‘ishah, may Allah be pleased with her who said,
‘When the Prophet ﷺ was taken by night to al-Masjid al-Aqsa the people began talking about that. So, some people who had believed in him and trusted him became apostates. They rushed with that (news) to Ab%o Bakr ﷺ and they said, ‘Do you know what your companion has said? He alleges that he was taken by night to Bait al-Maqdis.’ He said, ‘Did he say that?’ They said, ‘Yes.’ He said, ‘If he has said that then he is speaking the truth.’ They said, ‘You believe that he went in one night to Bait al-Maqdis and he returned before the morning?’ He said, ‘Yes, indeed I truly believe in something more distant than that. I believe in him coming with news from the heaven in one morning or one afternoon.’
For that (reason) Ab%o Bakr ﷺ was called ‘a]-Biddiq (the Upright).’

[Al-Baihaqī]

THE PROPHET ﷺ WOULD RECITE SURAH AL-ISRA' BEFORE SLEEPING

عَنْ عَائِشَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا قَالَتْ:

كَانَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ لَا يَنَامُ حَتَّى يَقْرَأَ الزُّمَرَ وَبَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ.

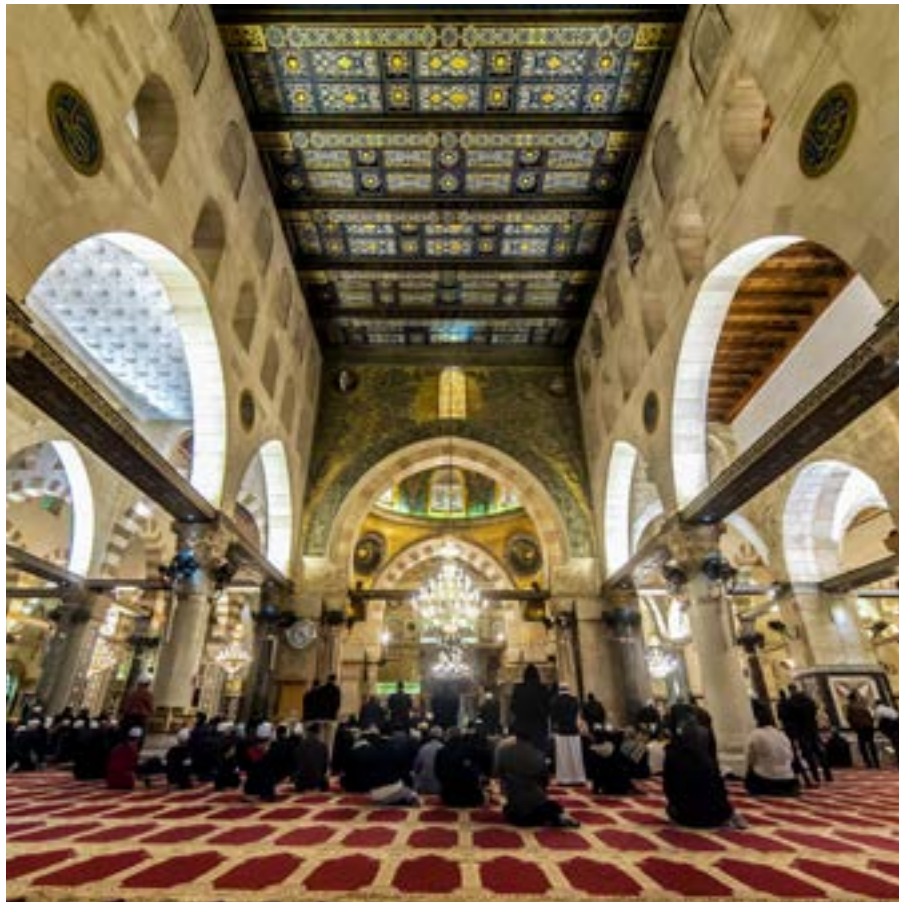
[رَوَاهُ التِّرْمِذِيُّ]

On the authority of ‘A’ishah,
may Allah be pleased with her who said,

‘The Prophet ﷺ would not sleep
until he recited (S%orah) az-Zumar (Chapter 39) and
(S%orah) Banī Isrā’īl (/ S%orah al-Isrā’ – Chapter 17).’

[At-Tirmidhī]

SECTION 5: THE ELITE PEOPLE OF AL-MASJID AL-AQSA AND SHAAM



ḥadīth 28

AN ELITE GROUP AT AL-MASJID AL-AQSA

عَنْ أَبِي أُمَامَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
« لَا تَزَالُ طَائِفَةٌ مِنْ أُمَّتِي عَلَى الْحَقِّ ظَاهِرِينَ لِعَدُوِّهِمْ قَاهِرِينَ لَا يَضُرُّهُمْ مَنْ خَالَفَهُمْ
إِلَّا مَا أَصَابَهُمْ مِنْ لَأْوَاءَ حَتَّى يَأْتِيَهُمْ أَمْرُ اللَّهِ وَهُمْ كَذَلِكَ »

قَالُوا: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَأَيْنَ هُمْ؟ قَالَ:

« بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ وَأَكْنَافِ بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ »

[رَوَاهُ أَحْمَدُ]

On the authority of Ab† Um¥mahؓ who said,
'The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said,

"A group of my Nation (Ummah) will continue to manifestly remain on the truth and vanquish their enemy. The ones who oppose them will not harm them except what befalls them of hardship until the command of Allah comes to them and they are like that."

They said, 'O Messenger of Allah! Where are they?'

He said,

"At Bait al-Maqdis and the (surrounding) sides of Bait al-Maqdis."

[A^mad]

ḥadīth 29

A BAND NOT HARMED BY DESERTERS

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ:

« لَا تَزَالُ عِصَابَةٌ مِنْ أُمَّتِي يُقَاتِلُونَ عَلَى أَبْوَابِ دِمَشْقَ وَمَا حَوْلَهَا وَعَلَى أَبْوَابِ بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ
وَمَا حَوْلَهُ لَا يَضُرُّهُمْ خِذْلَانٌ مَنْ خَذَلَهُمْ ظَاهِرِينَ عَلَى الْحَقِّ إِلَى أَنْ تَقُومَ السَّاعَةُ »

[رَوَاهُ أَبُو يَعْلَى]

On the authority of Ab† Hurairah ؓ that the Prophet ﷺ said,

“A band from my Nation (Ummah) will continue fighting at the gates of Damascus and its surrounding and at the gates of Bait al-Maqdis and its surrounding. The betrayal or desertion of whoever deserts them will not harm them in the least. They manifestly remain on the truth till the (Final) Hour is established.”

[Ab%o Ya'!¥]

ḥadīth 30

SHAAM IS A PLACE OF REVELATION

عَنْ أَبِي أُمَامَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

« أَنْزَلَ الْقُرْآنُ فِي ثَلَاثَةِ أَمْكِنَةٍ مَكَّةَ وَالْمَدِينَةَ وَالشَّامَ »

[رَوَاهُ ابْنُ عَسَاكِرٍ]

On the authority of Ab%o Um%mahؓ
that the Messenger of Allahؐ said,

**“The Qur’%n was revealed in three places:
Makkah, al-Madīnah and Sh%m²¹.”**

[Ibn ‘As%kir]

²¹ Ash-Sh%m is a land that is bordered by the Euphrates River on the northeast and by Egypt on the southwest. It is the region that includes the modern-day countries of Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. This is a land that shook and was illuminated at the birth of the Prophetؐ in Makkah.

The revelation alluded to in this ḥadīth is most likely to have been when the Prophetؐ was at Tab%ok according to Ibn Kathīr (RH).

ḥadīth 31

THE PROPHET ﷺ DIRECTLY BLESSED SHAAM

عَنْ ابْنِ عُمَرَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ:

« اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ لَنَا فِي شَأْمِنَا! اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ لَنَا فِي يَمِينِنَا! »

قَالُوا: وَفِي نَجْدِنَا؟ قَالَ:

« اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ لَنَا فِي شَأْمِنَا! اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ لَنَا فِي يَمِينِنَا! »

قَالُوا: وَفِي نَجْدِنَا؟ قَالَ:

« هُنَاكَ الزَّلَازِلُ وَالْفِتْنُ وَبِهَا » أَوْ قَالَ: « مِنْهَا يُخْرَجُ قَرْنُ الشَّيْطَانِ »

[رَوَاهُ التِّرْمِذِيُّ]

On the authority of Ibn 'Umar, may Allah be pleased with both of them,
that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said,

“O Allah bless us in our Shām! O Allah bless us in our Yemen!”

They said, ‘And in our Najd?’ He said,

“O Allah bless us in our Shām! O Allah bless us in our Yemen!”

They said, ‘And in our Najd?’ He said,

“Earthquakes are there, and tribulations are there, with it” or he said,

“From it, the horn of the Satan comes out.”

[At-Tirmidhī]

ḥadīth 32

ALLAH ﷺ GUARANTEED SHAAM AND ITS PEOPLE FOR THE PROPHET ﷺ

عَنْ ابْنِ حَوَالَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

« سَيَصِيرُ الْأَمْرُ إِلَى أَنْ تَكُونُوا جُنُودًا مُجَنَّدَةً جُنْدٌ بِالشَّامِ وَجُنْدٌ بِالْيَمَنِ وَجُنْدٌ بِالْعِرَاقِ »

قَالَ ابْنُ حَوَالَةَ: خَرَّ لِي يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ إِنَّ أَدْرَكَتُ ذَلِكَ. فَقَالَ:

« عَلَيْكَ بِالشَّامِ فَإِنَّهَا خَيْرَةٌ لِلَّهِ مِنْ أَرْضِهِ يَجْتَبِي إِلَيْهَا خَيْرَتَهُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ فَأَمَّا إِنْ أَبَيْتُمْ فَعَلَيْكُمْ

بِيَمَنِكُمْ وَاسْتَقُوا مِنْ غُدْرِكُمْ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ تَوَكَّلَ لِي بِالشَّامِ وَأَهْلِهِ »

[رَوَاهُ أَبُو دَاوُدَ]

On the authority of Ibn ḥawālahؓ who said, 'The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said,

**"The matter will turn out that you will be standing armies,
one in Shām, one in Yemen and one in 'Irāq."**

Ibn ḥawālahؓ] said, 'Choose for me, O Messenger of Allah [ﷺ], if I reach that (time)!

He [ﷺ] said,

"Go to Shām, for it is the chosen land of Allah in all of His earth, to which He selects His chosen servants to. But if you do not wish to go there, then go to your Yemen and drink from your streams. For indeed Allah has given me a guarantee concerning Shām and its people."

[Ab%o D#w%od]

ḥadīth 33

THE CHOSEN LAND AND PEOPLE OF ALLAH ARE IN SHAAM

عَنْ أَبِي أُمَامَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
« صَفْوَةُ اللَّهِ مِنْ أَرْضِهِ الشَّامُ وَفِيهَا صَفْوَتُهُ مِنْ خَلْقِهِ وَعِبَادِهِ وَلَيَدْخُلَنَّ
الْجَنَّةَ مِنْ أُمَّتِي ثَلَاثَةٌ لَا حِسَابَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا عَذَابَ »

[رَوَاهُ الطَّبْرَانِيُّ]

On the authority of Ab%o Um%mah ؓ who said,
'The Messenger of Allah ؐ said,

**"The chosen land of Allah is Sh%m and in it are His chosen people and servants"²².
A group from my nation will certainly enter Paradise
without any reckoning or punishment."**

[A~->abar%ni]

²²The elite and formidable status of the People of Sh%m is further emphatically emphasised in the following ḥadīth:

عَنْ مُعَاوِيَةَ بْنِ قُرَّةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ عَنْ أَبِيهِ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
« إِذَا فَسَدَ أَهْلُ الشَّامِ فَلَا خَيْرَ فِيكُمْ لَا تَزَالُ طَائِفَةٌ مِنْ أُمَّتِي مَنْصُورِينَ لَا يَضُرُّهُمْ مَنْ خَدَّهُمْ حَتَّى تَقُومَ السَّاعَةُ »
[رَوَاهُ التِّرْمِذِيُّ]

On the authority of Mu%wiyah ibn Qurrah ؓ from his father ؓ who said, 'The Messenger of Allah ؐ said,

**"When the people of Sh%m become corrupt, then there is no good in you.
There will never cease to be a group in my Nation (Ummah) who will be helped (by Allah).
They will not be harmed by those who forsake them until the Hour is established."**

[At-Tirmidhī]

ḥadīth 34

THE ANGELS SPREAD THEIR WINGS OVER SHAAM

عَنْ زَيْدِ بْنِ ثَابِتٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: كُنَّا عِنْدَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ نُؤَلِّفُ الْقُرْآنَ مِنَ الرِّقَاعِ
فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

« طُوبَى لِلشَّامِ »

فَقُلْنَا لِأَيِّ ذَلِكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ؟ قَالَ:

« لِأَنَّ مَلَائِكَةَ الرَّحْمَانِ بِأَسْطَةِ أَجْنِحَتِهَا عَلَيْهَا »

[رَوَاهُ التِّرْمِذِيُّ]

On the authority of Zaid ibn Thābit رضي الله عنه who said, 'We were with the Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم collecting the Qur'ān on pieces of cloth, then the Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم said,

">tb¥²³ (joy and a good final state) is for Sh¥m!"

So, we said, 'Why is that O Messenger of Allah?' He said,

"Because the angels of Ar-Ra^m¥n spread their wings over it"²⁴."

[At-Tirmidhī]

²³ >tb¥ is also believed to be the name of a certain tree in Paradise and is mentioned in the Noble Qur'ān, 13:29.

²⁴ Ibn 'Abb¥s, may Allah be pleased with both of them, added the following to this ḥadīth:

عَنْ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا قَالَ:
الْبَيْتُ الْمُقَدَّسُ بَنَتْهُ الْأَنْبِيَاءُ وَسَكَنَتْهُ الْأَنْبِيَاءُ. مَا فِيهِ مَوْضِعٌ شَرٌّ إِلَّا وَقَدْ صَلَّى فِيهِ [سَجَدَ عَلَيْهِ] نَبِيٌّ أَوْ قَامَ فِيهِ مَلَكٌ.
[إِنْحَافُ الْأَخْصَا بِفَضَائِلِ الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَى]

On the authority of Ibn 'Abb¥s, may Allah be pleased with both of them who said,

'The Prophets built al-Bait al-Maqdis and the Prophets lived therein. There is not a single handspan of space in it except that a Prophet has prayed [or prostrated in another narration] there, or an angel has stood.'

[Encouraging the Elite to the Virtues of al-Masjid al-Aq|¥]

ḥadīth 35

THE BEST PEOPLE ARE IN SHAAM

عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَمْرٍو رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا قَالَ: سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ:
« سَتَكُونُ هِجْرَةٌ بَعْدَ هِجْرَةٍ فَخِيَارُ أَهْلِ الْأَرْضِ الْأَرْضِ الْمُزْمَهُمُ مُهَاجِرَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَيَبْقَى فِي الْأَرْضِ شِرَارُ أَهْلِهَا
تَلْفِظُهُمْ أَرْضُهُمْ تَقْدَرُهُمْ نَفْسُ اللَّهِ وَتَحْشُرُهُمُ النَّارُ مَعَ الْقِرَدَةِ وَالْخَنَازِيرِ »

[رَوَاهُ أَبُو دَاوُدَ]

On the authority of ‘Abdullah ibn ‘Amr, may Allah be pleased with both of them who said,
‘I heard the Messenger of Allah ﷺ say,

“There will be migration after migration and the best people on Earth will be those
who cleave most closely to places which (the Prophet) Ibrāhīm [عليه السلام] migrated to (i.e. Shām²⁵).
The worst of its people will remain on the Earth cast out by their lands, abhorred by Allah,
the fire will gather them along with apes and swines.”

[Ab%o D¥w%od]

²⁵ This is directly mentioned in the following ¥yah of the Noble Qur’¥n:

﴿ وَنَجَّيْنَاهُ وَلُوطًا إِلَى الْأَرْضِ الَّتِي بَارَكْنَا فِيهَا لِلْعَالَمِينَ ﴾

سُورَةُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ: ٧١

“Then We delivered him (Ibrāhīm [عليه السلام]), along with (his nephew) Lt~ [عليه السلام],
(from ‘Ir¥q) to the land (al-Quds) that We have blessed for all people.”

[The Noble Qur’¥n, 21:71]

SECTION 6: AL-MASJID AL-AQSA AND THE SIGNS OF THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT



ḥadīth 36

ITS CONQUEST IS ONE OF THE SIGNS OF THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT

عَنْ عَوْفِ بْنِ مَالِكٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: أَتَيْتُ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فِي غَزْوَةِ تَبُوكَ وَهُوَ فِي قُبَّةٍ مِنْ
أَدَمٍ فَقَالَ:

« أَعْدُدْ سِتًّا بَيْنَ يَدَيْ السَّاعَةِ مَوْتِي ثُمَّ فَتْحُ بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ ثُمَّ مَوْتَانُ يَأْخُذُ فِيكُمْ كَقُعَاصِ الْغَنَمِ ثُمَّ
اسْتِفَاضَةُ الْمَالِ حَتَّى يُعْطَى الرَّجُلُ مِائَةَ دِينَارٍ فَيَظَلُّ سَاخِطًا ثُمَّ فِتْنَةٌ لَا يَبْقَى بَيْتٌ مِنَ الْعَرَبِ إِلَّا
دَخَلَتْهُ ثُمَّ هُدْنَةٌ تَكُونُ بَيْنَكُمْ وَبَيْنَ بَنِي الْأَصْفَرِ فَيَغْدِرُونَ فَيَأْتُونَكُمْ تَحْتَ ثَمَانِينَ غَايَةً تَحْتَ كُلِّ غَايَةٍ اثْنَا
عَشَرَ أَلْفًا »

[رَوَاهُ الْبُخَارِيُّ]

On the authority of 'Awf ibn M¥lik ؓ who said, 'I came to the Prophet ﷺ during
the military expedition of Tab%ok while he was in a leather tent. He said,

**“Count six [signs] that indicate the approach of the Hour: [1] my death²⁶, then [2] the conquest of
Jerusalem (Bait al-Maqdis), then [3] a plague that will afflict you [and kill you in great numbers]
as the plague that afflicts sheep, then [4] increase of wealth to such an extent that even if one is
given one hundred Dīn¥rs, he will not be satisfied; then [5] an affliction which no Arab house
will escape and then [6] a truce between you and Ban%o al-A|far (the pale-faced ones) who will
betray you then attack you under eighty flags. Under each flag will be twelve thousand [soldiers].”**

[Al-Bukh¥rī]

²⁶In the version of this ḥadīth in Sunan Ibn M¥jah, the narrator, 'Awf ibn M¥lik al-Ashja'ī ؓ sought permission to enter the leather tent of the Prophet ﷺ during the military expedition of Tab%ok in 9 AH. He was left both speechless and dejected at hearing about this devastating first sign of the Day of Judgement, namely the death of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ .

ḥadīth 37

YOU AND YOUR SONS WILL BE IMAMS THERE

عَنْ أَبِي شَدَّادِ بْنِ أَوْسٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ كَانَ عِنْدَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَهُوَ يَجُودُ بِنَفْسِهِ فَقَالَ:

« مَا لَكَ يَا شَدَّادُ؟ »

قَالَ: ضَاقَتْ بِي الدُّنْيَا! فَقَالَ:

« لَيْسَ عَلَيْكَ إِنَّ الشَّامَ يُفْتَحُ وَيُفْتَحُ بَيْتُ الْمَقْدِسِ فَتَكُونُ أَنْتَ وَوَلَدُكَ أئِمَّةً فِيهِمْ إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ »

[رَوَاهُ الطَّبْرَانِيُّ]

On the authority of Shaddād ibn Aws²⁷ was with the Messenger of Allah ﷺ whilst he was being generous with himself and said, “What is wrong O Shaddād?”

He said, ‘This world is very difficult on me!’ Then he [ﷺ] said,

“That is not the case. Indeed, Shām will be conquered, Bait al-Maqdis will be conquered and you and sons will be Imāms (leaders) amongst them if Allah wills.”

[A~->abarñi]



²⁷ The Companion Shaddād ibn Aws[ؓ] was a jurist who governed ḥam| (located in modern day western Syria) until he moved to Jerusalem, where he passed away in 58 AH, at the age of 75. He was born in al-Madīnah before Prophethood, and he was one of the narrators of ḥadīth. Other companions such as Abū ad-Dardā[ؓ] said about him, ‘Shaddād[ؓ] was amongst those that have been given knowledge (‘Ilm) and understanding (ḥilm).’ He is one of the seventy Companions buried in the Bāb ar-Raḥmah (Gateway of Mercy) Cemetery located at the eastern wall of the Blessed Masjid al-Aqṣā as pictured above.

ḥadīth 38

THE PLACE OF SAFETY FOR THE BELIEVERS IS SHAAM

عَنْ سَلَمَةَ بْنِ نُفَيْلٍ الْكِنْدِيِّ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: كُنْتُ جَالِسًا عِنْدَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَقَالَ رَجُلٌ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ أَذَالَ النَّاسُ الْخَيْلَ وَوَضَعُوا السِّلَاحَ وَقَالُوا لَا جِهَادَ قَدْ وَضَعَتِ الْحَرْبُ أَوْزَارَهَا فَأَقْبَلَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ بِوَجْهِهِ وَقَالَ:

« كَذَبُوا الْآنَ الْآنَ جَاءَ الْقِتَالُ وَلَا يَزَالُ مِنْ أُمَّتِي أُمَّةٌ يُقَاتِلُونَ عَلَى الْحَقِّ وَيُزِيغُ اللَّهُ لَهُمْ قُلُوبَ أَقْوَامٍ وَيَرْزُقُهُمْ مِنْهُمْ حَتَّى تَقُومَ السَّاعَةُ وَحَتَّى يَأْتِيَ وَعْدُ اللَّهِ وَالْخَيْلُ مَعْقُودَةٌ فِي نَوَاصِيهَا الْخَيْرُ إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ وَهُوَ يُوحَى إِلَيَّ أَنِّي مَقْبُوضٌ غَيْرَ مُلَبَّثٍ وَأَنْتُمْ تَتَّبِعُونِي أَفْنَادًا يَضْرِبُ بَعْضُكُمْ رِقَابَ بَعْضٍ وَعَقْرُ دَارِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ الشَّامُ »

[رَوَاهُ النَّسَائِيُّ]

On the authority of Salamah ibn Nufail al-Kindī رضي الله عنه who said, 'I was sitting with the Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم when a man said, 'O Messenger of Allah! The people have lost interest in horses and put down their weapons, and they say there is no Jihād, and that war has ended.' The Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم turned to face him and said,

"They are lying, now, now the fighting is to come. There will always be a group among my Ummah (nation) who will fight for the truth, for whom Allah will cause some people to deviate, and grant them provision from them, until the Hour is established and until the promise of Allah comes. Goodness is tied to the forelocks of horses until the Day of Resurrection. It has been revealed to me that I am going to die and will not stay long, and you will follow me group after group, striking one another's necks. And the place of safety for the believers is Shām."

[An-Nasā'ī]

Hadith 39

SHAAM WILL BE THE PLACE OF FAITH AT THE TIME OF TRIBULATIONS

عَنْ أَبِي الدَّرْدَاءِ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ:
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

« بَيْنَا أَنَا نَائِمٌ إِذْ رَأَيْتُ عَمُودَ الْكِتَابِ اخْتُمِلَ مِنْ تَحْتِ رَأْسِي فَظَنَنْتُ أَنَّهُ مَذْهُوبٌ بِهِ فَأَتْبَعْتُهُ بَصْرِي
فَعُمِدَ بِهِ إِلَى الشَّامِ أَلَا وَإِنَّ الْإِيمَانَ حِينَ تَقَعُ الْفِتْنُ بِالشَّامِ »

[رَوَاهُ أَحْمَدُ]

On the authority of Ab%o ad-Dard% who said,
'The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said,

"As I was sleeping, I saw the Column of the Book being carried away from under my head. I feared lest it would be taken away, so I followed it with my eyes and saw that it was planted in Sh¥m. Verily, belief in the time of tribulations will be in Sh¥m."

[A^mad]

ḥadīth 40

THE FLOURISHING STATE OF BAIT AL-MAQDIS

عَنْ مُعَاذِ بْنِ جَبَلٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

« عُمَرَانُ بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ خَرَابٌ يَثْرِبُ وَخَرَابُ يَثْرِبَ خُرُوجُ الْمَلْحَمَةِ وَخُرُوجُ الْمَلْحَمَةِ فَتْحُ
فُسْطَاطِيْنِيَّةٍ وَفَتْحُ الْقُسْطَاطِيْنِيَّةِ خُرُوجُ الدَّجَالِ »

ثُمَّ ضَرَبَ بِيَدِهِ عَلَيَّ فَخَذِ الَّذِي حَدَّثَ - أَوْ مِنْكِبِهِ - ثُمَّ قَالَ:

« إِنَّ هَذَا لِحَقٌّ كَمَا أَنَّكَ هَا هُنَا أَوْ كَمَا أَنَّكَ قَاعِدٌ » يَعْنِي مُعَاذُ بْنُ جَبَلٍ.

[رَوَاهُ أَبُو دَاوُدَ]

On the authority of Mu'adh ibn Jabal رضي الله عنه who said, 'The Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم said,

"The flourishing state of Bait al-Maqdis will be when Yathrib (al-Madīnah) is in ruins, the ruined state of Yathrib will be when the great war comes, the outbreak of the great war will be at the conquest of Constantinople (modern day Istanbul) and the conquest of Constantinople is when the Dajjal (Antichrist) comes forth."

Then he (the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم) struck his (the narrator's) thigh or his shoulder with his hand and said,

"This is as true as you are here or as you are sitting." (Meaning Mu'adh ibn Jabal رضي الله عنه.)

[Ab%o D¥w%od]

ḥadīth 41

'ISA عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ PRAYS BEHIND IMAM MAHDI عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ IN AL-MASJID AL-AQSA

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عَنْ جَابِرِ بْنِ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: سَمِعْتُ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ:
« لَا تَزَالُ طَائِفَةٌ مِنْ أُمَّتِي يُقَاتِلُونَ عَلَى الْحَقِّ طَاهِرِينَ إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ - قَالَ - فَيَنْزِلُ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَيَقُولُ أَمِيرُهُمْ: تَعَالَ صَلِّ لَنَا. فَيَقُولُ: لَا. إِنَّ بَعْضَكُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ أَمْرَاءُ تَكْرِمَةً اللَّهُ هَذِهِ الْأُمَّةَ »
[رَوَاهُ مُسْلِمٌ]

On the authority of Jābir ibn 'Abdullah رضي الله عنه who said, 'I heard the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم say,
"A group of my Nation (Ummah) will not cease fighting for the Truth and will prevail till the Day of Resurrection." He said, "'-sʿ ibn Maryam عليه السلام would then descend [at the white minaret in the eastern side of Damascus] and their (the Muslims') commander [Imʿm Mahdi عليه السلام] would say (to him), 'Come lead us in prayer'²⁸, but he would say, 'No, indeed some of you are commanders over each other as Allah's honour for this Ummah.'"
[Muslim]

²⁸ In the lengthy version of this ḥadīth in Ibn Mʿjah it mentions the following:

« هُمْ يَوْمئِذٍ قَلِيلٌ وَجَلُّهُمْ بَنِيَتِ الْمَقْدِسِ وَإِمَامُهُمْ رَجُلٌ صَالِحٌ فَبَيْنَمَا إِمَامُهُمْ قَدْ تَقَدَّمَ يُصَلِّي بِهِنَّ الصُّبْحَ إِذْ نَزَلَ عَلَيْهِمْ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ الصُّبْحَ فَرَجَعَ ذَلِكَ الْإِمَامُ يَنْكُصُ بِمَشْيِ الْقَهْقَرَى لِيَتَقَدَّمَ عِيسَى يُصَلِّي بِالنَّاسِ فَيَضَعُ عِيسَى يَدَهُ بَيْنَ كَتِفَيْهِ ثُمَّ يَقُولُ لَهُ تَقَدَّمَ فَصَلِّ فَإِنَّا لَكَ أَقِيمَتٌ فَيُصَلِّي بِهِنَّ إِمَامُهُمْ »
[رَوَاهُ ابْنُ مَاجَةَ]

"On that day they (the Arabs) will be few, and most of them will be in Bait al-Maqdis, and their leader (Imʿm Mahdi عليه السلام) will be a righteous man. When their leader has stepped forward to lead them in the Subh (Fajr) prayer, '-sʿ ibn Maryam عليه السلام] will come down to them at that time. Their leader will step backwards so that '-sʿ عليه السلام can come forward and lead the people in prayer, but '-sʿ عليه السلام will place his hand between his shoulders and say to him, 'Go forward and pray, for the Iqʿmah for it was given for you.' Then their leader will lead them in prayer..."

[Ibn Mʿjah]

Following this, '-sʿ عليه السلام will exit al-Masjid al-Aqṣā after the prayer and kill the Dajjāl as shown in the following ḥadīth:

عَنْ أَبِي أُمَامَةَ الْبَاهِلِيِّ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
«...فَإِذَا نَظَرَ إِلَيْهِ الدَّجَالُ ذَابَ كَمَا يَذُوبُ الْمَلْحُ فِي الْمَاءِ وَيَنْطَلِقُ هَارِبًا وَيَقُولُ عِيسَى عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ إِنَّ لِي فِيكَ ضَرْبَةً لَنْ تَسْبِقَنِي بِهَا. فَيُدْرِكُهُ عِنْدَ بَابِ اللُّدِّ الشَّرْقِيِّ فَيَقْتُلُهُ...»
[رَوَاهُ ابْنُ مَاجَةَ]

On the authority of Ab+ Umʿmah al-Bāhilī رضي الله عنه who said, 'The Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم said,
"... When the Dajjāl looks at him ('-sʿ عليه السلام), he will start to melt as salt melts in water. He will run away, and '-sʿ عليه السلام, will say, 'I have only one blow for you, which you will not be able to escape!' He will catch up with him at the eastern gate of Ludd (a town located 45km to the north west of al-Quds), and will kill him ..."

[Ibn Mʿjah]

ḥadīth 42

THE CALIPHATE ENDS IN SHAAM

عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ حَوْالَةَ الْأَزْدِيِّ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: بَعَثَنَا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ لِنَعْتَمَ عَلَى
أَقْدَامِنَا فَرَجَعْنَا فَلَمْ نَعْنَمَ شَيْئًا وَعَرَفَ الْجُهْدَ فِي وُجُوهِنَا فَقَامَ فِينَا فَقَالَ:

« اللَّهُمَّ لَا تَكِلْهُمْ إِلَيَّ فَأَضْعَفَ عَنْهُمْ وَلَا تَكِلْهُمْ إِلَى أَنْفُسِهِمْ فَيَعْجِزُوا عَنْهَا وَلَا تَكِلْهُمْ إِلَى النَّاسِ
فَيَسْتَأْتِرُوا عَلَيْهِمْ »

ثُمَّ وَضَعَ يَدَهُ عَلَى رَأْسِي - أَوْ قَالَ: عَلَى هَامَتِي - ثُمَّ قَالَ:

« يَا ابْنَ حَوْالَةَ إِذَا رَأَيْتَ الْخِلَافَةَ قَدْ نَزَلَتْ أَرْضَ الْمُقَدَّسَةِ فَقَدْ دَنَّتِ الزَّلَازِلُ وَالْبَلَابِلُ وَالْأُمُورُ الْعِظَامُ
وَالسَّاعَةُ يَوْمئِذٍ أَقْرَبُ مِنَ النَّاسِ مِنْ يَدِي هَذِهِ مِنْ رَأْسِكَ »

[رَوَاهُ أَبُو دَاوُدَ]

On the authority of ‘Abdullah ibn ḥawālah al-Azdī ؓ who said,
‘The Messenger of Allah ﷺ sent us on foot to get spoils (of war), but we returned without getting
any. When he saw the signs of distress on our faces, he stood up amongst us and said,

**“O Allah, do not put them under my care, for I would be too weak to care for them; do not put
them in care of themselves, for they would be incapable of that, and do not put them in the care of
men, for they would choose the best things for themselves.”**

He then placed his hand on my head, or he said on the crown of my head and then said,

**“O Ibn ḥawālah, when you see the Caliphate has settled in the Holy Land, earthquakes,
sorrows and serious matters will have drawn near and on that day the (Last) Hour will be
nearer to mankind than this hand of mine is to your head.”**

[Ab%o D%w%od]



ABOUT MUSLIM HANDS

Muslim Hands is an international aid agency and NGO, that grew from a grass roots movement, responding to the Bosnian war in the early 90s and since then, has responded to countless more emergencies, as well as establishing long term projects such as schools, healthcare clinics and livelihood programmes worldwide. We operate in over 30 countries around the world, working with our partners and offices on the ground, distributing aid in an effective, efficient, and transparent manner to make a lasting difference to the communities we work with. We are dedicated to tackling the root causes of poverty, supporting people over long-term periods, and creating sustainable development opportunities for communities all around the world.

Alhamdulillah, with the support of our donors, Muslim Hands have been helping to preserve the Blessed Masjid Al-Aqsa for over a decade inspired by the A^ʿdīth encouraging us to send oil for its lamps!

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﴿إِنَّمَا يَعْمُرُ مَسَاجِدَ اللَّهِ مِنْ ءَامِنٍ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ
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فَعَسَىٰ أُولَٰئِكَ أَنْ يَكُونُوا مِنَ الْمُهْتَدِينَ﴾

سُورَةُ التَّوْبَةِ: ١٨

“The Masjids of Allah are only built and visited by those who believe in Allah and the Last Day and establish prayer and give Zakat and do not fear except Allah, for it is expected that those will be of the [rightly] guided.”

[The Noble Qur’ān, 9:18]

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