

General

Surah Muhammad, in the order of revelation, is the 95th surah revealed to the Prophet (S). In the present order of compilation, it is the 47th surah, located in the 26th juz' thereof. It is a Madani surah consisting of 38 verses, 542 words, and 2,424 letters. With regards to the size, it counts as one of the Mathani surahs, which occupies less than one hizb. This surah is called "Muhammad" because the name appears in its second verse. It is also called Surah al-Qital (fight), because a majority of its verses are concerned with jihad. It is also called "alladhina kafaru" (those who disbelieved) because it opens with this phrase.

The main theme of the surah consists in characteristics of believers and disbelievers, and their fate in the afterlife. A well-known verse of the surah is the verse seven concerning how God supports believers. And its fourth verse concerning the prohibition of killing prisoners of wars and their release without a payment or in exchange for a ransom counts as a Jurisprudential Verse. Rewards for the recitation of this surah include immunity from poverty and drinking from Heavenly springs.

Content

The content of this surah is divided into four parts (for your ease) which depicts a comparison of respective fates of believers and disbelievers after resurrection. The surah is also concerned with jihad and battles against enemies of Islam. It deals with issues of fight and jihad because it was revealed during the Battle of Uhud.

The words, "idlal" (wasting) and "ihbat" (rendering worthless), are repeatedly used in the surah referring to actions of disbelievers being eradicated and rendered worthless, which is said to have to do with their disbelief and their abhorrence of the Holy Qur'an.

Given below is a high level summary of the content of this surah:

- ❖ Faith and disbelief, and a comparison of the condition of believers and disbelievers in this world and the afterlife,
- ❖ Jihad with enemies, and an order concerning prisoners of wars,
- ❖ Hypocrites who were sabotaging in Madinah at the time of the revelation of these verses,
- ❖ Recommendation of people to proceed through the earth and investigate the fates of past nations as lessons,
- ❖ Divine test regarding wars,
- ❖ Donation as a kind of jihad.

Surah Muhammad Content

Purpose of Jihad with God's enemies

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِن تَنْصُرُوا اللَّهَ يَنْصُرُكُمْ وَيُثْبِتُ أَقْدَامَكُمْ (47:7)



V
1-6

FIRST GOAL: Countering the acts of the enemies of God's religion

First subject-matter: verses 1-3

The way of the enemies being wrong, and the way of believers being right

Second subject-matter: verses 4-6

Believers must fight the enemies of the religion

V
16-32

THIRD GOAL: Disclosing the acts and the nature of hypocrites

First action: verses 16-19

Insulting the Prophet (S) and his teachings

Second action: verses 20-24

Failure in performing the command to jihad

Third action: verses 25-28

Hidden cooperation with enemies

Fourth action: verses 29-32

God's methods in revealing the nature of hypocrites

V
7-15

SECOND GOAL: Believers enjoying divine support and reward

First reward: verses 7-11

Victory of the believers and destruction of the enemies

Second reward: verse 12

Believers enjoying eternal Heavenly Blessings

Third reward: verses 13-14

God's support of believers against enemies

Fourth reward: verse 15

Believers enjoying various other Heavenly blessings

V
33-38

CONCLUSION: Encouraging the believers to go to Jihad in the way of God

First subject-matter: verses 33-35

Consequences of indolence in jihad

Second subject-matter: verses 36-38

Love of this world as a factor of lethargy in jihad