

## Introduction

Sūrah al-Rūm is the 30<sup>th</sup> surah of the Holy Qur'an. This Makki surah is in the 21<sup>st</sup> juz. According to the order of revelation, this is the 84<sup>th</sup> surah revealed to our Holy Prophet (S). Its appellation as "al-Rum" (Rome) is because it predicted the defeat of Romans from Persian and then in a near future the defeat of Persians from Romans. The word, "al-Rum", appears at the beginning of the surah (Verse 2) after the disjoined letters (al-huruf al-muqatta'a). It is the sixtieth sura that opens with broken letters and has 60 verses, 820 words, 3472 letters. Surah al-Rum talks about the promise of divine victory and the journey in the world and in one's self or soul. It also explains some legislative (tashri'i) and existential (takwini) laws, such as marriage, innate love and mercy within human beings, helping those in need, and prohibition of usury.

## Background & Context

The Prophet (S) wrote two letters to the kings of Iran and Rum and invited them to the religion of Islam. The king of Iran, Khusrow Parviz, tore the letter, but the king of Room respected Prophet's letter. The Muslims therefore wanted Romans to be victorious, but because of their defeat the Muslims became inconvenient. Through these holy verses Allah (SwT) gave a glad tiding to the Muslims that although Romans failed, they would win the battle thereafter in near future and that victory could make the believers happy.

Pagans of Mecca took Romans' defeat as a good omen and considered it as a proof of legitimacy for their own polytheism. They said Iranians were Zoroastrians and polytheists (dualists), but Romans were Christians, the People of the Book'. Since Iranians overcame Romans, then the final victory belonged to polytheism and Islam would be vanished soon and they (the polytheists) might be victorious.

The abovementioned verses were revealed, saying decisively that though Iranians became victorious in that war, after a short time they would bear a failure from Romans. The Qur'an stated even the time of that prophecy and said that that event would happen during a period of 3 to 9 years - with the term 'Bidha'.

This surah, which also begins with disconnected letters (ALM), contrary to many Surahs of the Qur'an which also begin with the same abbreviated letters, seems like missing the discussion about the greatness of the Holy Qur'an and only talks about the Roman's failure and their future victory. But a careful study makes it clear that this discussion is also the statement of the greatness of the Qur'an, because this prediction is considered as one of the signs of the miracle of the Holy Qur'an and the greatness of this heavenly Book.

# Sūrah al-Rūm

سُورَةُ الرَّوْمِ

## Proof for God's power to realize His promise of the victory of believers and the defeat of non-believers

### Verses 1-7

The inevitability of the realization of all divine promises

### Verses 27-39

God's oneness in the creation of the world

### Verse 8

The purposefulness of the system of creation

### Verses 40-47

God's power to create and provide the human livelihood

### Verses 9-19

God's tradition of the punishment of unbelievers

### Verses 48-53

God's power to revive the Earth

### Verses 20-26

Signs of the human life being planned by God

### Verse 54

God's power to direct human conditions from infant to old age

### Verses 55-60

God's promise is true, although it is denied by unbelievers