

Sura Fath

1. What is the meaning of the word 'Fath' and which event was it revealed after?

Fath means 'victory'. It was revealed after the Treaty of Hudaibiyya. Many Muslims at the time believed the treaty of Hudaibiyya to be a loss for the Muslims, as they thought many of the terms favoured the Quraysh. However, on many occasions within this sura, Allah (swt) talks about how it was actually a victory.

2. In ayat #10 of this sura the Holy Quran says the 'Hand of God' is over whose hands? Does Allah (swt) have hands? What do you think this verse is saying? Draw a picture to represent this part of the verse.

No God does not have bodily characteristics so it is not saying He has a physical human hand. Some scholars say the true meaning of the phrase cannot be understood, whereas others say it should be interpreted in relation to Allah's (swt) attributes such as His Power.

It tells us that Allah (swt) will be with those that pledged their allegiance to Prophet Muhammad (saw).



3. This sura refers to the making of a pledge. Find the ayat in which this pledge is mentioned and give the Arabic name and English translation for it.

Ayat #18 – the pledge was called bay'at al-shajara (pledge of the tree) or bay'at al-ridwan (pledge of satisfaction).

Who was the pledge made to and why? Was this before or after the Treaty of Hudaibiyya?

The pledge was made to Prophet Muhammad (saw) by the Muslims. Prophet Muhammad (saw) had sent Uthman Ibn Affan to Mecca and meet with the leaders of the Quraysh to negotiate their entry into Mecca. However, he was in Mecca longer than the Muslims expected, and so many of the Muslims with Prophet Muhammad (saw) got scared. Therefore, Prophet Muhammad (saw) asked them all to pledge allegiance to him there, under a tree. This took place before the treaty of Hudaibiyya.

4. **According to ayat #27, what dream did Allah (swt) show to Prophet Muhammad (saw)? Explain the dream and what this prompted him to do.**

In his dream, Prophet Muhammad's (saw) saw the Muslims entering the al Masjid al Haram in Mecca safely, with their heads shaven – essentially he saw the Muslims doing Hajj in safety. It prompted Prophet Muhammad (saw) to go to Mecca that year, and it resulted in the forming of the treaty of Hdaybiyya.

5. **Some didn't join Prophet Muhammad (saw) on this specific journey and Allah (swt) was not pleased with them. Why did they not join, and what excuses did they make? Give the ayat number(s).**

Ayat #12 – speaks of how they did not join because they thought the Muslims were going to die and so would never return to their families.

Ayah #11 – gives the excuse that they were pre-occupied with their property and families.

In this sura, what are the valid reasons that Allah (swt) provides for not joining the Prophet on his journey? Give the ayat number(s)

Ayat #17 – being blind, lame (ie unable to walk) or sick

6. **What is the meaning of وَكَفَى بِاللَّهِ شَهِيدًا and in which ayat of this sura is it found?**

Ayat #28 – 'And sufficient is Allah (swt) as a witness'

7. **What has been promised for the following: believing in Allah (swt) and performing good deeds?**

Forgiveness and a great reward

8. **The sura ends with a beautiful parable about a flower. Explain the parable and its relevance to this sura.**

The parable of the sapling serves as a symbolic description of the companions of the Prophet. At the outset they were weak and few in number, but then their numbers grew and they acquired strength. It provides a fitting end to the surah, as the events to which it alludes: the treaty of Hdaybiyya, the conquest of Khaybar and the conquest of Mecca, marked a decisive turn in the early history of Islam; through these events it was spread over the entire Arabian Peninsula in a few years. (Sayyed Hossein Nasr, Study Quran).

9. This sura is quite political in nature. What do you think it demonstrates by being included in the Holy Quran?

Answers are subjective. Throughout history, and with all religions, there has been interplay between religion and politics, and in this the prophethood of Prophet Muhammad (saw) is no different. Not only were the many gods/idols of the Meccans threatened by Islam but so was the leaders' power and wealth as well as the overall status quo. This sura shows that the Prophet would have received Divine Guidance in political as well as spiritual matters.

10. How do the events of this sura help us in preparing ourselves to become true followers of Imam Mahdi?

Answers are subjective. They demonstrate the level of trust and faith we need to have in the Imam in order to remain loyal to him in the face of opposition, uncertainty and maybe even our own gut instincts. We can remind ourselves of the power of truth and the reward for remaining in Allah's (swt) way despite all its challenges by reading this sura.