

## **A Brief Overview of Surah al-Fatihah**

From Maulana Muhammad Aslam Shaykh-puri's ﷺ *Khulasat al-Qur'an*

Translated & Paraphrased by Maulana Muaz Billoo

**“All praise belongs to Allah, Lord of the universe. The Extensively Merciful, the Intensely Merciful. Master of the day of judgment. It is only You we worship, and only You we seek help in. Guide us to the straight path, the path of those whom you have favored. Not (the path) of those who incurred your wrath, nor those who were misguided.”**

Scholarly consensus affirms that Surah al-Fatihah was revealed in Makkah amidst the earlier stages of Islam. The surah consists of seven verses<sup>1</sup>, and yet, in spite of its concise nature, it serves as an overarching summary of the entirety of the blessed book. Thus, the surah is also known as *Umm al-Qur'an* and *Asas al-Qur'an*<sup>2</sup>. In other words, it serves as a prelude and summary of the entirety of the Qur'an.

The core subjects of the Qur'an can be summarized into the following three:

1. *Tawhid* (The Oneness of Allah ﷻ)
2. *Risalat* (Prophethood)
3. *Qiyamat* (Resurrection)

The first, second, and fourth verses<sup>3</sup> of this surah touch upon *Tawhid*, whereas the third ayah touches upon *Qiyamat*. The fifth and sixth verses subtly touch upon *Risalat*. In short, the surah covers some of the names and qualities of Allah ﷻ while commanding us to worship and seek His help alone, in addition to supplicating Him for steadfastness and guidance.

Additionally, on one hand there is a subtle indication towards (following the path of) the prophets and the pious, while on the other hand we are to remain vigilant of those with twisted indoctrinations, who, due to their distorted knowledge and perverse practices incurred the wrath and punishment of Allah ﷻ.

Surah al-Fatihah gives us a glimpse of the remaining 113 surahs. It is no surprise that the surah is perpetually repeated in every rak'ah of every prayer, as it continues to supply us with a glance of the rest of the Qur'an.

---

<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that there exists a slight difference of opinion among the scholars in regards to the basmalah being the first ayah of Surah al-Fatihah. The Hanafi and Maliki schools assert that it is not a part of the surah itself, whereas the Shafi' and Hanbali schools assert that it is. Since the author of the book followed the Hanafi school, the current article adopts the Hanafi position with respect to the numbering of the ayahs, thus the first verse will not be “Bismillah,” but it will be the verse beginning with “Alhamdulillah.” For further details, one may refer to *Ahkam al-Qur'an* of Imam Abu Bakr al-Jassas al-Razi, *Irshad al-Qari* of Imam ibn Battal al-Maliki, *Kitab al-Umm* of Imam al-Shafii, and *al-Mughni* of Imam ibn Qudamah (Translator).

<sup>2</sup> The essence of the Qur'an

<sup>3</sup> See footnote 1