



Revelation Order of the Qur'an

The Qur'an was sometimes revealed to respond to various events and incidents. Sometimes it was revealed to support the Prophet (saws) who was faced with many questions, whether by Muslims or non-Muslims, and hardships. Other times was revealed for legislation and for putting rules to govern the social, economical, and political life of Muslims.

The first verses to be revealed, according to the most correct opinion of scholars, are the first five verses of Surat Al-`Alaq, which happens to be Chapter 96 of the 114 chapters of the Qur'an.

Order of Verses

Muslim scholars agree that the order of the verses in every chapter was done or commanded by the Prophet (saws) himself following the commands of Almighty Allah.

The Prophet (saws) once told his Companions after he had received a certain revelation that the arch-angel Gabriel had specified for him the particular order of verses (Ahmad).

There are also many incidents narrated in the books of Sunnah regarding the Prophet's (saws) recitation during prayer. The Companions used to pray every day behind the Prophet (saws) and he used to recite the Qur'an in the order given to him by Allah, and they used to learn and memorize from his recitation.

There have never been any incident in which any of the Companions reciting in any order that violated the order of the verses showed to us by the Prophet (saws).

Order of Surahs

As for the order of the surahs (chapters), the most accepted view is that it was also applied following an instruction given by Almighty Allah. It has been recorded that the Prophet (saws) reviewed the Qur'an with the arch-angel Gabriel 24 times all within his life.

Every year, he used to review it once during the month of Ramadan with Gabriel. During the final year of the Prophet's life, Gabriel revised the Qur'an twice with the Prophet (saws) as a way of confirming it. The Prophet (saws), in turn, used to follow this order in teaching his Companions and communicating the message to them.

Significance of Order

The question of why a surah like Surat Al-`Alaq, which was revealed first not put first in the *mushaf* (a physical copy of the Qur'an), this will require us to search more in the Qur'an and explore some of its secrets. A deeper look into the whole matter will show us that the order of the Qur'an has a purpose and the revelation of the Qur'an also has a purpose.

For instance, the revelation of the Qur'an responding to specific problems or incidents carries the purpose of solving these problems or providing guidance in these incidents.

During the first 13 years of Islam, the main task of the Prophet (saws) was to call people to Islam based on the Qur'anic revelations that focused on the Oneness of Allah and righteous conduct.

When Muslims migrated to Madinah and an Islamic community started to be well-established and new challenges emerged, the main focus of the revelation was to regulate the life of Muslims through detailing the rulings pertaining to different acts of worship and setting punishments for crimes and so on.

This shows us that the revelation in each of the two stages has a purpose. When the revelation stage was completed, the whole Qur'an was there and the whole message was put in the order that was intended for it to stay till the Day of Judgment.

Explanation of Order

Such an order serves in delivering the message the Qur'an is put for, as it has got another purpose.

If you look at the first surah of the Qur'an, namely Al-Fatihah, you can perceive that it acts as a summary for the structure and the message of the Book (Qur'an) ahead of every reader.

Being Umm Al-Qur'an (the Mother of the Qur'an), it carries all its themes; it summarizes them. It tells us who Allah is: the source of all love and mercy. Therefore, knowing who He is, we should be thankful to Him and worship Him alone. We should seek His help, and He has all the power to give us whatever we need. It makes it clear that Allah is the only One Who can really guide. It speaks about life after death and the consequences of human action and behavior.

The same holds true for Surat Al-Baqarah. The first verses speak about the fact that this Book is above all doubts and it is beyond the abilities of doubters to try to challenge its validity. Then it gives a hint on its main theme — guiding the righteous — and then goes on to speak about the beginning of creation and the story of Adam to establish the theme that humankind is here on earth as a vicegerent of the Creator and should use the Book as a manual to carry out the mission in the right way.

All these themes and messages cannot be carried except through this logical order in which Allah commanded for the Qur'an to be put. If a surah like Al-'Alaq was to be put at the beginning instead of Al-Fatihah, it could have given a significance of course and give a message, but not the exact fully wonderful message that we can get from the order of the Qur'an as it is now.

Why Al-`Alaq in the Current Order?

As for why Surat Al-`Alaq is mentioned in this specific order in the Qur'an, scholars hold the view that in the previous surah of At-Tin, Allah says what means that He has created humans in the best make (At-Tin 95:4). The details of that creation are cited in Surat Al-`Alaq:

{Read in the name of your Lord Who created. Created humans, out of a (mere) clot of congealed blood.} (Al-`Alaq 96:1-2)

Revelation Order of the Qur'an

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Revelation Order	Surah Number	Surah Name	Arabic Name	Total Verses	Revelation Place
1	96	Alaq	سُورَةُ الْاٰلِقَافِ	19	Macca
2	68	Qalam	سُورَةُ الْقَلَمِ	52	Macca
3	73	Muzammil	سُورَةُ الْمُزَمِّلِ	20	Macca
4	74	Mudathir	سُورَةُ الْمُدَّثِّرِ	56	Macca
5	1	Fatehah	سُورَةُ الْفَاتِحَةِ	7	Macca
6	111	Lahab	سُورَةُ الْاٰلْعَنَادِ	5	Macca
7	81	Takwir	سُورَةُ التَّكْوِيْنِ	29	Macca
8	87	A'la	سُورَةُ الْاٰلِ	19	Macca
9	92	Leyl	سُورَةُ اللَّيْلِ	21	Macca
10	89	Fajr	سُورَةُ الْفَجْرِ	30	Macca
11	93	Duha	سُورَةُ الدُّهْرِ	11	Macca
12	94	Inshira	سُورَةُ الْاِنْشِرَافِ	8	Macca
13	103	Asr	سُورَةُ الْاَسْرِ	3	Macca
14	100	Aadiyat	سُورَةُ الْاَعْيَادِ	11	Macca
15	108	Kauthar	سُورَةُ الْكَوْثَرِ	3	Macca
16	102	Takatur	سُورَةُ التَّكْوِيْنِ	8	Macca
17	107	Alma'un	سُورَةُ الْمَاعُونِ	7	Macca
18	109	Kafirun	سُورَةُ الْكَافِرِيْنَ	6	Macca
19	105	Fil	سُورَةُ الْفِيلِ	5	Macca
20	113	Falaq	سُورَةُ الْفَلَقِ	5	Macca
21	114	Nas	سُورَةُ النَّاسِ	6	Macca
22	112	Ikla	سُورَةُ الْاٰخِرَةِ	4	Macca
23	53	Najm	سُورَةُ النَّجْمِ	62	Macca
24	80	Abasa	سُورَةُ عَبَسَ	42	Macca
25	97	Qadr	سُورَةُ الْقَدْرِ	5	Macca
26	91	Shams	سُورَةُ الشَّمْسِ	15	Macca
27	85	Buruj	سُورَةُ الْبُرُوجِ	22	Macca
28	95	T'in	سُورَةُ التِّينِ	8	Macca
29	106	Qureysh	سُورَةُ الْقُرَيْشِ	4	Macca
30	101	Qariah	سُورَةُ الْقَارِعَةِ	11	Macca
31	75	Qiyamah	سُورَةُ الْقِيَامَةِ	40	Macca
32	104	Humazah	سُورَةُ الْهُمَزَةِ	9	Macca
33	77	Mursalat	سُورَةُ الْمُرْسَلَاتِ	50	Macca
34	50	Q'af	سُورَةُ قَافٍ	45	Macca
35	90	Balad	سُورَةُ الْبَلَدِ	20	Macca
36	86	Tariq	سُورَةُ الطَّارِقِ	17	Macca
37	54	Qamr	سُورَةُ الْقَمَرِ	55	Macca
38	38	Sad	سُورَةُ سَدِّ	88	Macca
39	7	A'Raf	سُورَةُ الرَّافِعِ	206	Macca
40	72	Jinn	سُورَةُ الْجِنِّ	28	Macca

41	36	Ya'sin	سُورَةُ يٰسِينَ	83	Macca
42	25	Furqan	سُورَةُ الرِّقَّانِ	77	Macca
43	35	Fatir	سُورَةُ فَاطِرٍ	45	Macca
44	19	Maryam	سُورَةُ مَرْيَمَ	98	Macca
45	20	Ta Ha	سُورَةُ طه	135	Macca
46	56	Waqiah	سُورَةُ الْوَاقِعَةِ	96	Macca
47	26	Shuara	سُورَةُ الشُّعَرَاءِ	227	Macca
48	27	Naml	سُورَةُ النَّمْلِ	93	Macca
49	28	Qasas	سُورَةُ الْقَصَصِ	88	Macca
50	17	Bani Israil	سُورَةُ الْاِيسْرَاءِ	111	Macca
51	10	Yunus	سُورَةُ يُوسُفَ	109	Macca
52	11	Hud	سُورَةُ هُودٍ	123	Macca
53	12	Yousuf	سُورَةُ يُوسُفَ	111	Macca
54	15	Hijr	سُورَةُ الْحَجَرِ	99	Macca
55	6	Anam	سُورَةُ الْأَنْعَامِ	165	Macca
56	37	Saffat	سُورَةُ الصَّافَّاتِ	182	Macca
57	31	Luqman	سُورَةُ لُقْمَانَ	34	Macca
58	34	Saba	سُورَةُ سَبَأٍ	54	Macca
59	39	Zumar	سُورَةُ الزُّمَرِ	75	Macca
60	40	Mumin	سُورَةُ الْمُؤْمِنِ	85	Macca
61	41	Hamim Sajdah	سُورَةُ فَصَّلَاتٍ	54	Macca
62	42	Shura	سُورَةُ الشُّورَى	53	Macca
63	43	Zukhruf	سُورَةُ الزُّكْرُوفِ	89	Macca
64	44	Dukhan	سُورَةُ الدُّخَانِ	59	Macca
65	45	Jathiyah	سُورَةُ الْجَاثِيَةِ	37	Macca
66	46	Ahqaf	سُورَةُ الْأَحْقَافِ	35	Macca
67	51	Dhariyat	سُورَةُ الذَّارِيَةِ	60	Macca
68	88	Ghashiya	سُورَةُ الْغَاشِيَةِ	26	Madina
69	18	Kahf	سُورَةُ الْكَافِرِ	110	Macca
70	16	Nahl	سُورَةُ النَّحْلِ	128	Macca
71	71	Noah	سُورَةُ نُوحٍ	28	Macca
72	14	Ibrahim	سُورَةُ اِبْرَاهِيمَ	52	Macca
73	21	Anbiya	سُورَةُ الْاَنْبِيَاءِ	112	Macca
74	23	Muminun	سُورَةُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ	118	Macca
75	32	Sajdah	سُورَةُ السَّجْدَةِ	30	Macca
76	52	Tur	سُورَةُ الطُّورِ	49	Macca
77	67	Mulk	سُورَةُ الْمُلْكِ	30	Macca
78	69	Haqqah	سُورَةُ الْحَاقَّةِ	52	Macca
79	70	Maarij	سُورَةُ الْمَعَارِجِ	44	Macca
80	78	Naba	سُورَةُ النَّبَاِ	40	Macca
81	79	Naziat	سُورَةُ النَّازِعَاتِ	46	Macca

82	82	Infitar	سُورَةُ الْاِنْفِطَارِ	19	Macca
83	84	Inshiqaq	سُورَةُ الْاِنْشِقَاقِ	25	Macca
84	30	Rum	سُورَةُ الرُّومِ	60	Macca
85	29	Ankabut	سُورَةُ الْاَنْكَبُوتِ	85	Macca
86	83	Tatfif	سُورَةُ الْاَتْفِيفِ	36	Macca
87	2	Baqarah	سُورَةُ الْبَقَرَةِ	286	Madina
88	8	Anfal	سُورَةُ الْاَنْفَالِ	75	Madina
89	3	Aal-e-Imran	سُورَةُ الْاَحْزَابِ	200	Madina
90	33	Ahzab	سُورَةُ الْاَحْزَابِ	73	Madina
91	60	Mumtahana	سُورَةُ الْمُتَحَنَّنِ	13	Madina
92	4	Nisa	سُورَةُ الْنِّسَاءِ	176	Madina
93	99	Zilzal	سُورَةُ الزَّلْزَلَةِ	8	Macca
94	57	Hadid	سُورَةُ الْحَدِيدِ	29	Madina
95	47	Muhammad	سُورَةُ مُحَمَّدٍ	38	Madina
96	13	Ra'd	سُورَةُ الرَّعْدِ	43	Madina
97	55	Rahman	سُورَةُ الرَّحْمَنِ	78	Macca
98	76	Dahr	سُورَةُ الدَّهْرِ	31	Madina
99	65	Talaq	سُورَةُ الطَّلَاقِ	12	Madina
100	98	Beyinnah	سُورَةُ الْبَيِّنَاتِ	8	Madina
101	59	Hashr	سُورَةُ الْحَشْرِ	24	Madina
102	24	Nur	سُورَةُ النُّورِ	64	Madina
103	22	Hajj	سُورَةُ الْحَجِّ	78	Madina
104	63	Munafiqun	سُورَةُ الْمُنَافِقِينَ	11	Madina
105	58	Mujadila	سُورَةُ الْمُجَادِلَةِ	22	Madina
106	49	Hujurat	سُورَةُ الْحُجُرَاتِ	18	Madina
107	66	Tahrim	سُورَةُ التَّحْرِيمِ	12	Madina
108	64	Taghabun	سُورَةُ التَّغَابُنِ	18	Madina
109	61	Saff	سُورَةُ الصَّفِّ	14	Madina
110	62	Jumah	سُورَةُ الْجُمُعَةِ	11	Madina
111	48	Fath	سُورَةُ الْفَتْحِ	29	Madina
112	5	Maidah	سُورَةُ الْمَائِدَةِ	120	Madina
113	9	Taubah	سُورَةُ التَّوْبَةِ	129	Madina
114	110	Nasr	سُورَةُ النَّصْرِ	3	Madina


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