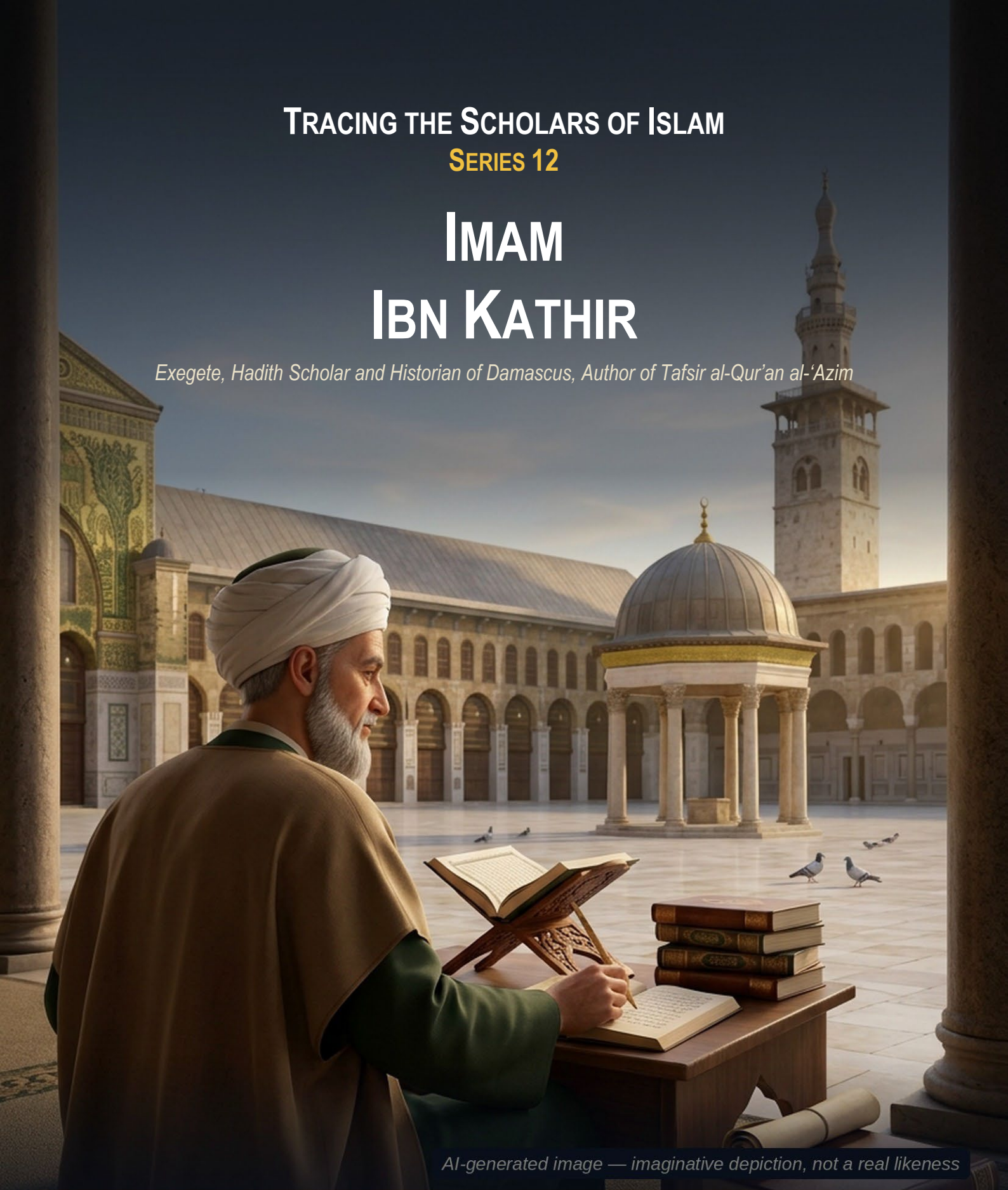
Tracing the Scholars of Islam

Series 12

Imam Ibn Kathir

Exegete, Hadith Scholar and Historian of Damascus, Author of Tafsir al-Qur'an al-'Azim



AI-generated image — imaginative depiction, not a real likeness

Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron
AK (Kelantan)
quranscience.my

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron AK (Kelantan) • quranscience.my • @QuranDanSains
This eBook is FREE for Muslims — not for sale.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

TRACING THE SCHOLARS OF ISLAM

SERIES 12

IMAM IBN KATHIR

Exegete, Hadith Scholar and Historian of Damascus, Author of Tafsir al-Qur'an al-'Azim

أَفَلَا يَتَدَبَّرُونَ ٱلْقُرْءَانَ ۚ وَلَوْ كَانَ مِنْ عِندِ غَيْرِ ٱللَّهِ لَوَجَدُوا۟ فِيهِ ٱخْتِلَٰفًا كَثِيرًا

"Then do they not reflect upon the Qur'an? If it had been from [any] other than Allah, they would have found within it much contradiction."

SURAH AN-NISA' 4:82

HJ CHE ALIM HJ CHE HARON

quranscience.my | @QuranDanSains

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH quranscience.my — free eBook. Not for sale.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All praise is due to Allah, who sent down the Qur'an free of contradiction, part of it explaining other parts. Blessings and peace be upon the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, the first interpreter of the Book of Allah, and upon his family and his Companions.

This eBook is specially dedicated to my beloved wife,

ZAHARAH MOHD LATIF;

my dear children,

MUHAMMAD HAFIZ, NOOR HAZWANI, ABDUL HAKIM, NOOR HIDAYAH, NOR AQILA and **NOR ATIQAH**;

and my sons- and daughters-in-law,

FAZILAH, MALEK, HANIN, FAIRIZAL and **FIRWAN**.

This twelfth book of Tracing the Scholars of Islam tells the story of the imam whose tafsir is perhaps the most widely read by Muslims today, including in the Malay world. May his story bring us closer to the Qur'an and the Sunnah, and may this knowledge be 'ilmun yuntafa'u bih, knowledge that brings benefit.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

ABOUT THE COVER OF THIS EBOOK

The cover of this eBook, in a **3D** illustration style, is an **image generated by artificial intelligence (AI)** — an ***imaginative depiction, not a real likeness*** of Imam Ibn Kathir, since no portrait of him was ever drawn. This label is also printed on the cover. This time he is seen **from behind his right shoulder**, with his face partly visible.

He sits in the arcade reading **a mushaf on a wooden stand** and writing — a symbol of his method of tafsir: ***explaining the Qur'an by the Qur'an***, then by the Sunnah. Beside him are **volumes of tafsir**, while **large books and a scroll** in front symbolise his history, ***al-Bidayah wa an-Nihayah***.

Before him stretches **the courtyard of the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus** in the morning — with its small domed treasury (Qubbat al-Khaznah) and minaret — the city where he studied, taught and died.

Two gold lines at the bottom frame the author's name, while the image runs in full to the edge of the page.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

CONTENTS

IMAM IBN KATHIR — *Introducing the scholar*

1. THE QUR'AN WITHOUT CONTRADICTION — *An-Nisa' 4:82*

2. WHO WAS IMAM IBN KATHIR? — *Name, birth, teachers; timeline*

3. AN ORPHAN IN MIJDAL — *History note; Sahih al-Bukhari 5304*

4. DAMASCUS IN THE MAMLUK AGE — *Teachers and students; history note*

5. PREACHER AND TEACHER IN DAMASCUS — *History note; Sahih al-Bukhari 5027*

6. EXPLAINING THE QUR'AN BY THE QUR'AN — *Al-An'am 6:82; Luqman 31:13; Sahih al-Bukhari 4776*

7. THREE GREAT TAFSIRS — *Figure; Sahih al-Bukhari 75*

8. CAUTION WITH THE ISRA'ILIYYAT — *Sahih al-Bukhari 4485*

9. CONVEY EVEN A SINGLE VERSE — *Sahih al-Bukhari 3461*

10. AL-BIDAYAH WA AN-NIHAYAH — *Yusuf 12:3*

11. THE STRUCTURE OF AL-BIDAYAH WA AN-NIHAYAH — *Figure; Sahih al-Bukhari 3191*

12. THE SIGNS OF THE HOUR — *Sahih al-Bukhari 3448*

13. A HADITH SCHOLAR WHO WROTE — *Sahih al-Bukhari 113*

14. THE GREAT PLAGUE IN DAMASCUS — *Sahih al-Bukhari 5728*

15. LATE NIGHTS WITH THE MUSNAD OF AHMAD — *History note; Sahih al-Bukhari 6464*

16. PATIENCE IN THE LOSS OF SIGHT — *Sahih al-Bukhari 5653; history note*

17. VALUING TIME — *Sahih al-Bukhari 6412*

18. TAFSIR IBN KATHIR TODAY — *Abridgements and translations*

19. RECITING AND REFLECTING ON THE QUR'AN — *Sahih Muslim 804*

20. KNOWLEDGE THAT KEEPS FLOWING — *Sahih Muslim 1631; Sahih al-Bukhari 100*

21. ESTABLISHED REPORTS AND POPULAR STORIES — *Assessing the reports*

22. LESSONS AND CONCLUSION

GLOSSARY AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS

REFERENCES

SUPPORT & DONATIONS

Colour guide: green box = verses of the Qur'an; gold box = Hadith; brown box = history note (reports from the books of history and biography); blue table = comparison. Underlined blue narrator names can be clicked to open the narrator's page on sunnah.com.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

IMAM IBN KATHIR

The twelfth book of **Tracing the Scholars of Islam** tells the story of ***Imam 'Imad ad-Din Abu al-Fida' Isma'il ibn 'Umar ibn Kathir*** رحمه الله, author of ***Tafsir al-Qur'an al-'Azim*** — known as ***Tafsir Ibn Kathir***, one of the most widely read books of tafsir, translated into many languages, including Malay.

If Imam at-Tabari (Series 10) gathered narrations, and Imam al-Qurtubi (Series 11) focused on rulings, Imam Ibn Kathir is known for his clear method: ***the Qur'an is explained by the Qur'an, then by the Sunnah***.

Note: The translation of Qur'anic verses in this eBook is that of Sahih International. The grading of each Hadith is stated in the Hadith box. Information from books of history and biography is placed in the brown "History Note" boxes. A cover image that shows the scholar's face is an AI-generated image and is marked as such.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

THE QUR'AN WITHOUT CONTRADICTION

SURAH AN-NISA' 4:82

أَفَلَا يَتَدَبَّرُونَ ٱلْقُرْءَانَ ۚ وَلَوْ كَانَ مِنْ عِندِ غَيْرِ ٱللَّهِ لَوَجَدُوا۟ فِيهِ ٱخْتِلَٰفًا كَثِيرًا ﴿٨٢﴾

Then do they not reflect upon the Qur'an? If it had been from [any] other than Allah, they would have found within it much contradiction.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/4:82

EXPLANATION OF VERSE 4:82

Allah says: ***"If it had been from [any] other than Allah, they would have found within it much contradiction"***. Because the Qur'an comes from Allah, its verses ***explain one another***, rather than contradicting each other. This is the basis of Imam Ibn Kathir's method: what is brief in one place is explained in another. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 4:82.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

WHO WAS IMAM IBN KATHIR?

His full name was ***Isma'il ibn 'Umar ibn Kathir al-Qurashi al-Busrawi ad-Dimashqi***, with the kunyah ***Abu al-Fida'*** and the title ***'Imad ad-Din***. He was ***born in 701 AH*** in the village of ***Majdal***, near Busra in the region of Hauran (today in southern Syria). His father died when he was young, and in 706 AH he moved to ***Damascus*** with his elder brother.

HIS GREAT TEACHERS

He studied with the great scholars of Damascus, among them ***Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyyah***, whom he loved dearly; ***al-Hafiz al-Mizzi***, the expert on narrators, who later became ***his father-in-law*** when he married his daughter Zaynab; and ***al-Hafiz adh-Dhahabi***.

THE VERDICTS OF THE SCHOLARS

Adh-Dhahabi described him as: "***An imam, a mufti, a skilled hadith scholar, trustworthy, versed in many fields, a precise hadith scholar.***" **Ibn Hajar al-'Asqalani** said he had ***a remarkable power of recall***, and that his works ***spread to many lands during his lifetime***.

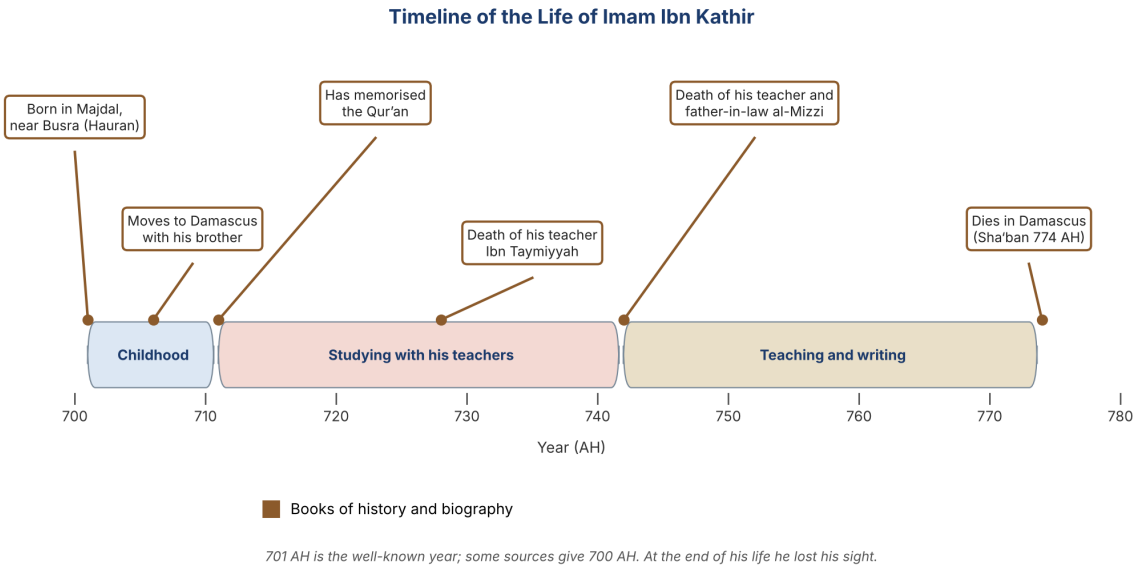


Figure 1: Timeline of the life of Imam Ibn Kathir.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

AN ORPHAN IN MIJDAL

HISTORY NOTE: LOSING HIS FATHER AT THREE

According to Wikipedia, Ibn Kathir's father died in ***703 AH (1303 CE)***, when he was only ***three years old***. His first lessons in jurisprudence came from ***his elder brother, Kamal al-Din 'Abd al-Wahhab***, who later brought him to Damascus.

REFERENCES:

Wikipedia, "Ibn Kathir". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_Kathir

An orphan guided by his brother grew up to be ***a great scholar***. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ promised a high station to whoever cares for an orphan:

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 5304

حَدَّثَنَا عَمْرُو بْنُ زُرَارَةَ، أَخْبَرَنَا عَبْدُ الْعَزِيزِ بْنُ أَبِي حَازِمٍ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ سَهْلٍ، قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم «أَنَا وَكَافِلُ الْيَتِيمِ فِي الْجَنَّةِ هَكَذَا». وَأَشَارَ بِالسَّبَّابَةِ وَالْوُسْطَى، وَفَرَّجَ بَيْنَهُمَا شَيْئًا.

TRANSLATION:

Sahl ibn Sa'd رضى الله عنه narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **"I and the one who cares for an orphan will be in Paradise like this"** — and he pointed with his index and middle fingers, keeping a little space between them.

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from 'Amr ibn Zurarah, from 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Abi Hazim, from his father Abu Hazim Salamah ibn Dinar, from Sahl ibn Sa'd as-Sa'idi رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Divorce (Kitab at-Talaq), Hadith No. 5304.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:5304

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

Caring for an orphan — including ***educating him*** — brings a person close to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ in Paradise. Ibn Kathir's brother gave the Ummah a commentator whose knowledge is still read today.

WAYS TO CARE FOR ORPHANS	EXAMPLES TODAY
Providing for needs	Sponsoring food, clothing and school fees.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

WAYS TO CARE FOR ORPHANS	EXAMPLES TODAY
Educating	Teaching Qur'an reading and basic religious knowledge.
Showing love	Visiting, listening and encouraging.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

MOVING TO DAMASCUS FOR KNOWLEDGE

The move from Mijdal to Damascus opened the path of knowledge for Ibn Kathir. Every path of seeking knowledge carries a promised reward:

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 2699

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ يَحْيَى التَّمِيمِيُّ، وَأَبُو بَكْرِ بْنُ أَبِي شَيْبَةَ وَمُحَمَّدُ بْنُ الْعَلاَءِ الْهَمْدَانِيُّ - وَاللَّفْظُ لِيَحْيَى - قَالَ يَحْيَى أَخْبَرَنَا وَقَالَ الآخَرَانِ، حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو مُعَاوِيَةَ، عَنِ الأَعْمَشِ، عَنْ أَبِي صَالِحٍ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم « مَنْ نَفَّسَ عَنْ مُؤْمِنٍ كُرْبَةً مِنْ كُرَبِ الدُّنْيَا نَفَّسَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ كُرْبَةً مِنْ كُرَبِ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ وَمَنْ يَسَّرَ عَلَى مُعْسِرٍ يَسَّرَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالآخِرَةِ وَمَنْ سَتَرَ مُسْلِمًا سَتَرَهُ اللَّهُ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالآخِرَةِ وَاللَّهُ فِي عَوْنِ الْعَبْدِ مَا كَانَ الْعَبْدُ فِي عَوْنِ أَخِيهِ وَمَنْ سَلَكَ طَرِيقًا يَلْتَمِسُ فِيهِ عِلْمًا سَهَّلَ اللَّهُ لَهُ بِهِ طَرِيقًا إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ وَمَا اجْتَمَعَ قَوْمٌ فِي بَيْتٍ مِنْ بُيُوتِ اللَّهِ يَتْلُونَ كِتَابَ اللَّهِ وَيَتَدَارَسُونَهُ بَيْنَهُمْ إِلاَّ نَزَلَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ السَّكِينَةُ وَغَشِيَتْهُمُ الرَّحْمَةُ وَحَفَّتْهُمُ الْمَلاَئِكَةُ وَذَكَرَهُمُ اللَّهُ فِيمَنْ عِنْدَهُ وَمَنْ بَطَّأَ بِهِ عَمَلُهُ لَمْ يُسْرِعْ بِهِ نَسَبُهُ ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه said: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **"Whoever relieves a believer of one of the hardships of this world, Allah will relieve him of one of the hardships of the Day of Resurrection … Allah helps His servant as long as the servant helps his brother. Whoever follows a path seeking knowledge, Allah will make easy for him, thereby, a path to Paradise. No people gather in one of the houses of Allah, reciting the Book of Allah and studying it among themselves, except that tranquillity descends upon them, mercy covers them, the angels surround them, and Allah mentions them among those who are with Him …"**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Yahya ibn Yahya al-Tamimi, Abu Bakr ibn Abi Shaybah and Muhammad ibn al-'Ala' al-Hamdani, from Abu Mu'awiyah, from Sulayman al-A'mash, from Abu Salih, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Remembrance, Supplication, Repentance and Seeking Forgiveness, chapter on the virtue of gathering to recite the Qur'an and for remembrance, Hadith No. 2699. The translation above is abridged (…).

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim, the second most authentic book of Hadith after Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:2699a

Allah ***makes easy the path to Paradise*** for the seeker of knowledge. The orphan from Mijdal walked that path until he became an imam.

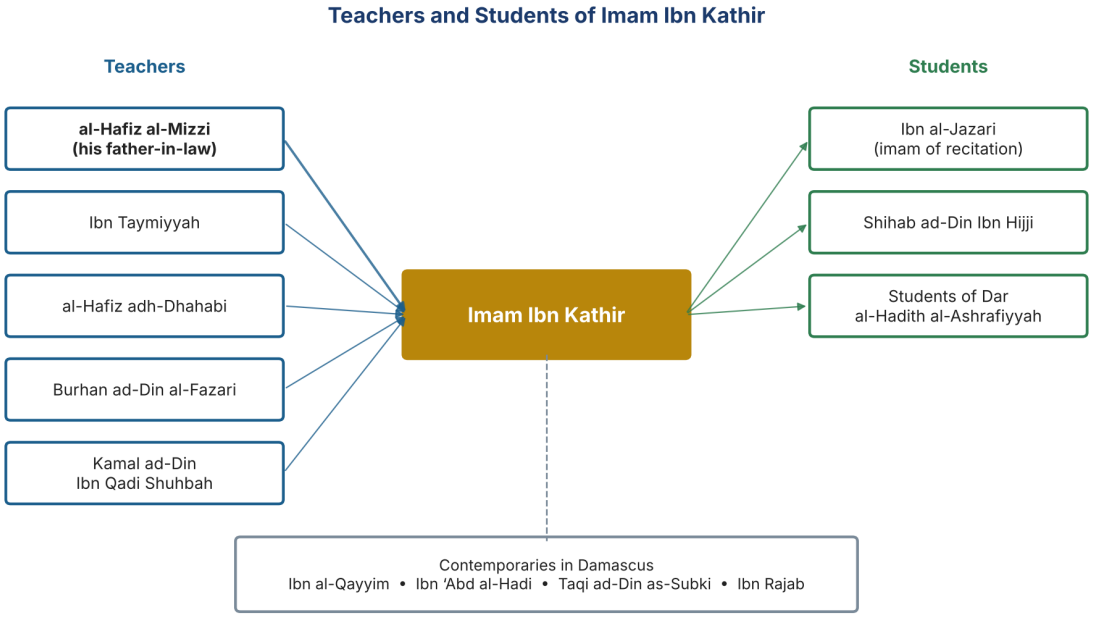
© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

DAMASCUS IN THE MAMLUK AGE

In the eighth century AH, ***Damascus*** was ruled by the ***Mamluk state*** based in Cairo. The city was full of ***madrasahs, houses of Hadith and mosques***, gathering great scholars of every school. The Mongol threat had ended, but the ummah was still tested by disputes, drought and plague.

In this setting Ibn Kathir grew up and studied. He had ***four great teachers*** who were contemporaries and knew one another — a rare opportunity in the history of learning:



Simplified diagram based on the books of biography (ad-Durar al-Kaminah, Inba' al-Ghumr). The real lists are much longer.

Figure 2: Teachers and students of Imam Ibn Kathir.

HISTORY NOTE: A LOYAL STUDENT OF IBN TAYMIYYAH

Ibn Hajar in ***ad-Durar al-Kaminah*** mentions that Ibn Kathir was ***very close to Ibn Taymiyyah***, loved him and followed some of his views, so that he ***also suffered hardship*** because of it during the disputes among the scholars of Damascus.

Yet Ibn Kathir remained ***broad-minded***: he learned from scholars of different approaches, including Burhan ad-Din al-Fazari and adh-Dhahabi, and respected them all. This is a biographical report (not a Hadith).

REFERENCES:

Ibn Hajar, ad-Durar al-Kaminah; Ibn Hajar, Inba' al-Ghumr — biography of Ibn Kathir.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

PREACHER AND TEACHER IN DAMASCUS

HISTORY NOTE: SCHOLARLY POSTS

According to Wikipedia, in ***1345 CE*** Ibn Kathir was appointed ***preacher (khatib)*** at a newly built mosque in ***Mizza***, the hometown of his father-in-law, al-Mizzi. In ***1366 CE*** he received a teaching post at ***the Great Mosque of Damascus*** (the Umayyad Mosque). He also taught at ***Dar al-Hadith al-Ashrafiyyah***, a hadith academy in Damascus.

REFERENCES:

Wikipedia, "Ibn Kathir". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_Kathir

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 5027

حَدَّثَنَا حَجَّاجُ بْنُ مِنْهَالٍ، حَدَّثَنَا شُعْبَةُ، قَالَ أَخْبَرَنِي عَلْقَمَةُ بْنُ مَرْثَدٍ، سَمِعْتُ سَعْدَ بْنَ عُبَيْدَةَ، عَنْ أَبِي عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ السُّلَمِيِّ، عَنْ عُثْمَانَ ـ رضى الله عنه ـ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ «خَيْرُكُمْ مَنْ تَعَلَّمَ الْقُرْآنَ وَعَلَّمَهُ». قَالَ وَأَقْرَأَ أَبُو عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ فِي إِمْرَةِ عُثْمَانَ حَتَّى كَانَ الْحَجَّاجُ، قَالَ وَذَاكَ الَّذِي أَقْعَدَنِي مَقْعَدِي هَذَا.

TRANSLATION:

'Uthman رضى الله عنه reported that the Prophet ﷺ said: **"The best of you are those who learn the Qur'an and teach it."** (Sa'd ibn 'Ubaydah) said: Abu 'Abd ar-Rahman (as-Sulami) taught the Qur'an from the caliphate of 'Uthman until the time of al-Hajjaj, and he said: "That is what has kept me sitting in this seat of mine."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Hajjaj ibn Minhal, from Shu'bah, from 'Alqamah ibn Marthad, from Sa'd ibn 'Ubaydah, from Abu 'Abd ar-Rahman as-Sulami, from 'Uthman ibn 'Affan رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of the Virtues of the Qur'an, Hadith No. 5027.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:5027

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

The best of people are those who ***learn and teach*** the Qur'an. From the pulpit and study circles of Damascus, Ibn Kathir lived out this hadith all his life.

YEAR	POST
1345 CE	Preacher at a new mosque in Mizza.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

YEAR	POST
1366 CE	Teacher at the Great Mosque of Damascus (Umayyad Mosque).
—	Taught at Dar al-Hadith al-Ashrafiyyah.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

UNDERSTANDING OF THE RELIGION

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 71 (MUTTAFAQ 'ALAIH)

حَدَّثَنَا سَعِيدُ بْنُ عُفَيْرٍ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا ابْنُ وَهْبٍ، عَنْ يُونُسَ، عَنِ ابْنِ شِهَابٍ، قَالَ قَالَ حُمَيْدُ بْنُ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ سَمِعْتُ مُعَاوِيَةَ، خَطِيبًا يَقُولُ سَمِعْتُ النَّبِيَّ صلى الله عليه وسلم يَقُولُ «مَنْ يُرِدِ اللَّهُ بِهِ خَيْرًا يُفَقِّهْهُ فِي الدِّينِ، وَإِنَّمَا أَنَا قَاسِمٌ وَاللَّهُ يُعْطِي، وَلَنْ تَزَالَ هَذِهِ الأُمَّةُ قَائِمَةً عَلَى أَمْرِ اللَّهِ لاَ يَضُرُّهُمْ مَنْ خَالَفَهُمْ حَتَّى يَأْتِيَ أَمْرُ اللَّهِ».

TRANSLATION:

Humayd ibn 'Abd ar-Rahman said: I heard Mu'awiyah رضى الله عنه delivering a sermon, saying: I heard the Prophet ﷺ say: **"Whoever Allah wishes good for, He gives him understanding of the religion. I am only a distributor, and Allah is the One who gives. This nation will remain upright upon the command of Allah; those who oppose them will not harm them, until the command of Allah comes."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Sa'id ibn 'Ufayr, from Ibn Wahb, from Yunus, from Ibn Shihab az-Zuhri, from Humayd ibn 'Abd ar-Rahman, from Mu'awiyah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Knowledge, Hadith No. 71. Also narrated by Muslim (No. 1037).

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:71

A preacher and teacher needs ***understanding*** of the religion — a sign of the good Allah wills for a person.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

EXPLAINING THE QUR'AN BY THE QUR'AN

In the introduction to his tafsir, Imam Ibn Kathir explains that ***the best way to explain the Qur'an is by the Qur'an***; if that is not found, by ***the Sunnah***, for the Sunnah explains the Qur'an; then by ***the words of the Companions***; then of ***the Successors***. This method was taken from the Messenger of Allah ﷺ himself, as in the following event:

SURAH AL-AN'AM 6:82

ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُواْ وَلَمۡ يَلۡبِسُوٓاْ إِيمَٰنَهُم بِظُلۡمٍ أُوْلَٰٓئِكَ لَهُمُ ٱلۡأَمۡنُ وَهُم مُّهۡتَدُونَ ٨٢

They who believe and do not mix their belief with injustice - those will have security, and they are [rightly] guided.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/6:82

SURAH LUQMAN 31:13

وَإِذۡ قَالَ لُقۡمَٰنُ لِٱبۡنِهِۦ وَهُوَ يَعِظُهُۥ يَٰبُنَيَّ لَا تُشۡرِكۡ بِٱللَّهِۖ إِنَّ ٱلشِّرۡكَ لَظُلۡمٌ عَظِيمٞ ١٣

And [mention, O Muhammad], when Luqman said to his son while he was instructing him, "O my son, do not associate [anything] with Allah. Indeed, association [with him] is great injustice."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/31:13

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

The link between these two verses was explained by the Messenger of Allah ﷺ himself:

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 4776 — THE MESSENGER OF ALLAH ﷺ EXPLAINS THE QUR'AN BY THE QUR'AN

حَدَّثَنَا قُتَيْبَةُ بْنُ سَعِيدٍ، حَدَّثَنَا جَرِيرٌ، عَنِ الأَعْمَشِ، عَنْ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، عَنْ عَلْقَمَةَ، عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ ـ رضى الله عنه ـ قَالَ لَمَّا نَزَلَتْ هَذِهِ الآيَةُ {الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَلَمْ يَلْبِسُوا إِيمَانَهُمْ بِظُلْمٍ} شَقَّ ذَلِكَ عَلَى أَصْحَابِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم وَقَالُوا أَيُّنَا لَمْ يَلْبِسْ إِيمَانَهُ بِظُلْمٍ فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم «إِنَّهُ لَيْسَ بِذَاكَ، أَلاَ تَسْمَعُ إِلَى قَوْلِ لُقْمَانَ لاِبْنِهِ {إِنَّ الشِّرْكَ لَظُلْمٌ عَظِيمٌ}»

TRANSLATION:

'Abdullah ibn Mas'ud رضى الله عنه said: When this verse was revealed: *"They who believe and do not mix their belief with injustice"* (6:82), it was hard on the Companions of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. They said: "Which of us has not mixed his belief with injustice?" The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **"It is not that. Have you not heard the saying of Luqman to his son: 'Indeed, association [with Allah] is great injustice'?"** (31:13)

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Qutaybah ibn Sa'id, from Jarir ibn 'Abd al-Hamid, from al-A'mash, from Ibrahim an-Nakha'i, from 'Alqamah ibn Qays, from 'Abdullah ibn Mas'ud رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Tafsir, Hadith No. 4776; also narrated by Muslim (No. 124).

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:4776

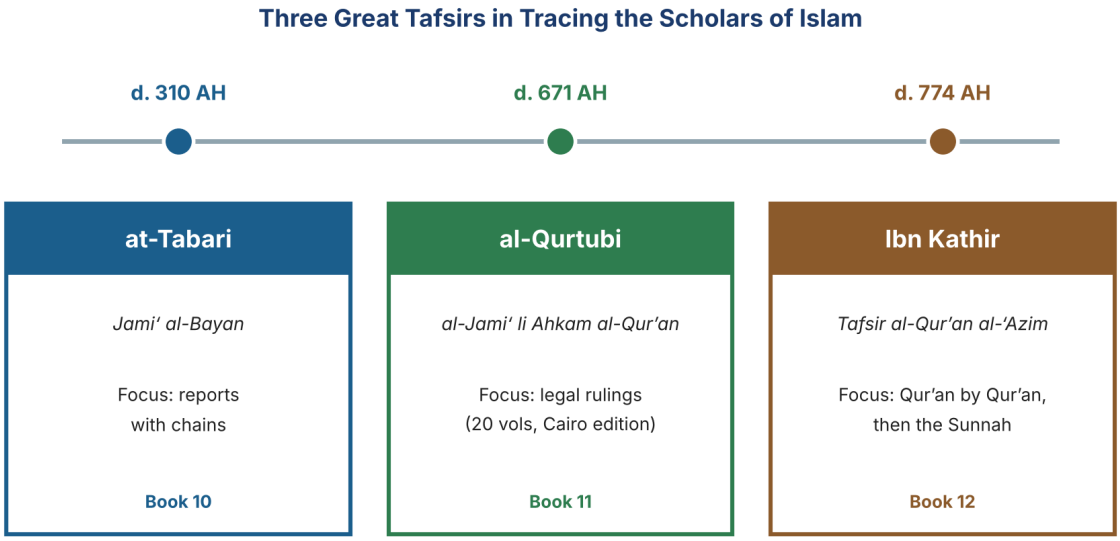
LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

The Companions understood "injustice" in 6:82 in a general sense, including minor sins. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ explained it by another verse (31:13): what is meant is ***shirk***. This is the best example of ***explaining the Qur'an by the Qur'an***.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

THREE GREAT TAFSIRS

Books 10, 11 and 12 of ***Tracing the Scholars of Islam*** tell the stories of three great commentators. According to Wikipedia, Ibn Kathir ***relied on at-Tabari's tafsir***, but brought his own method and content; many Sunni scholars rank his tafsir after those of at-Tabari and al-Qurtubi.



Sources: Wikipedia, "Al-Tabari", "Tafsir al-Qurtubi", "Ibn Kathir".

Figure 3: Three great tafsirs in this series.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

All three commentators inherited the science of tafsir that began with the Messenger of Allah's ﷺ supplication for Ibn 'Abbas (may Allah be pleased with them):

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 75

حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو مَعْمَرٍ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ الْوَارِثِ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا خَالِدٌ، عَنْ عِكْرِمَةَ، عَنِ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ، قَالَ ضَمَّنِي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم وَقَالَ «اللَّهُمَّ عَلِّمْهُ الْكِتَابَ».

TRANSLATION:

Ibn 'Abbas رضى الله عنهما said: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ embraced me and said: **"O Allah, teach him the Book (the Qur'an)."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Abu Ma'mar, from 'Abd al-Warith, from Khalid al-Hadhdha', from 'Ikrimah, from 'Abdullah ibn 'Abbas رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Knowledge, Hadith No. 75.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:75

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

The science of tafsir is ***a connected inheritance***: from the Messenger of Allah ﷺ to Ibn 'Abbas, then the Followers, then at-Tabari, al-Qurtubi and Ibn Kathir.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

CAUTION WITH THE ISRA'ILIYYAT

The ***Isra'iliyyat*** are stories that come from the People of the Book (Jews and Christians). Many early books of tafsir include them. Imam Ibn Kathir was known for being ***critical*** of these reports: he would often mention them and then explain that they ***cannot be relied upon***. His guide was the following Hadith:

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 4485

حَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ بَشَّارٍ، حَدَّثَنَا عُثْمَانُ بْنُ عُمَرَ، أَخْبَرَنَا عَلِيُّ بْنُ الْمُبَارَكِ، عَنْ يَحْيَى بْنِ أَبِي كَثِيرٍ، عَنْ أَبِي سَلَمَةَ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ ـ رضى الله عنه ـ قَالَ كَانَ أَهْلُ الْكِتَابِ يَقْرَءُونَ التَّوْرَاةَ بِالْعِبْرَانِيَّةِ، وَيُفَسِّرُونَهَا بِالْعَرَبِيَّةِ لأَهْلِ الإِسْلاَمِ، فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم «لاَ تُصَدِّقُوا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ وَلاَ تُكَذِّبُوهُمْ، وَقُولُوا {آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَمَا أُنْزِلَ} الآيَةَ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه said: The People of the Book used to read the Torah in Hebrew and explain it in Arabic to the Muslims. So the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **"Do not believe the People of the Book and do not disbelieve them. Say: 'We believe in Allah and what has been revealed to us…'"** (2:136)

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Muhammad ibn Bashshar, from 'Uthman ibn 'Umar, from 'Ali ibn al-Mubarak, from Yahya ibn Abi Kathir, from Abu Salamah ibn 'Abd ar-Rahman, from Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Tafsir, Hadith No. 4485.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:4485

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

Stories of the People of the Book that are ***not confirmed*** by the Qur'an and Sunnah are neither affirmed nor denied. We do not build creed or rulings upon them. Today, the same attitude is needed towards ***unsourced stories*** on social media.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

CONVEY EVEN A SINGLE VERSE

According to Wikipedia, Ibn Kathir ***approached the Isra'iliyyat critically*** and ***largely avoided them***. Yet he did not reject them all, because the Messenger of Allah ﷺ allowed them to be narrated, with conditions:

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 3461

حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو عَاصِمٍ الضَّحَّاكُ بْنُ مَخْلَدٍ، أَخْبَرَنَا الأَوْزَاعِيُّ، حَدَّثَنَا حَسَّانُ بْنُ عَطِيَّةَ، عَنْ أَبِي كَبْشَةَ، عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَمْرٍو، أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « بَلِّغُوا عَنِّي وَلَوْ آيَةً، وَحَدِّثُوا عَنْ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ وَلاَ حَرَجَ، وَمَنْ كَذَبَ عَلَىَّ مُتَعَمِّدًا فَلْيَتَبَوَّأْ مَقْعَدَهُ مِنَ النَّارِ ».

TRANSLATION:

'Abdullah ibn 'Amr رضى الله عنهما narrated that the Prophet ﷺ said: **"Convey from me, even if it is one verse. Narrate from the Children of Israel, there is no harm. And whoever lies about me deliberately, let him take his seat in the Fire."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Abu 'Asim al-Dahhak ibn Makhlad, from 'Abd al-Rahman al-Awza'i, from Hassan ibn 'Atiyyah, from Abu Kabshah al-Saluli, from 'Abdullah ibn 'Amr ibn al-'As رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of the Prophets, chapter on what is mentioned about the Children of Israel, Hadith No. 3461.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:3461

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

This hadith carries three instructions: ***convey*** knowledge even if little; reports of the Children of Israel may be narrated; and ***never lie*** in the name of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. All three shaped Ibn Kathir's method in his tafsir and history.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

AL-BIDAYAH WA AN-NIHAYAH

Besides his tafsir, Imam Ibn Kathir compiled ***al-Bidayah wa an-Nihayah*** (The Beginning and the End) — a great history starting from the creation of the universe, the stories of the prophets, the life of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, the history of the Muslims up to his own time, and ending with ***the signs of the Hour and the Hereafter***. The Qur'an itself relates the best of stories:

SURAH YUSUF 12:3

نَحْنُ نَقُصُّ عَلَيْكَ أَحْسَنَ ٱلْقَصَصِ بِمَآ أَوْحَيْنَآ إِلَيْكَ هَٰذَا ٱلْقُرْءَانَ وَإِن كُنتَ مِن قَبْلِهِۦ لَمِنَ ٱلْغَٰفِلِينَ ﴿٣﴾

We relate to you, [O Muhammad], the best of stories in what We have revealed to you of this Qur'an although you were, before it, among the unaware.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/12:3

Allah says: ***"We relate to you, [O Muhammad], the best of stories in what We have revealed to you of this Qur'an"***. In his history, Imam Ibn Kathir gives priority to what is ***established in the Qur'an and authentic Hadith***, and often points out weak reports. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 12:3.

His other works include ***Jami' al-Masanid***, ***Ikhtisar 'Ulum al-Hadith*** and ***Tabaqat ash-Shafi'iyyah***.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

THE STRUCTURE OF AL-BIDAYAH WA AN-NIHAYAH

According to Wikipedia, al-Bidayah wa an-Nihayah has ***14 volumes***, beginning with ***the start of creation*** and running through history to ***767 AH***, while its final volume discusses ***the signs of the Hour*** and the Hereafter.

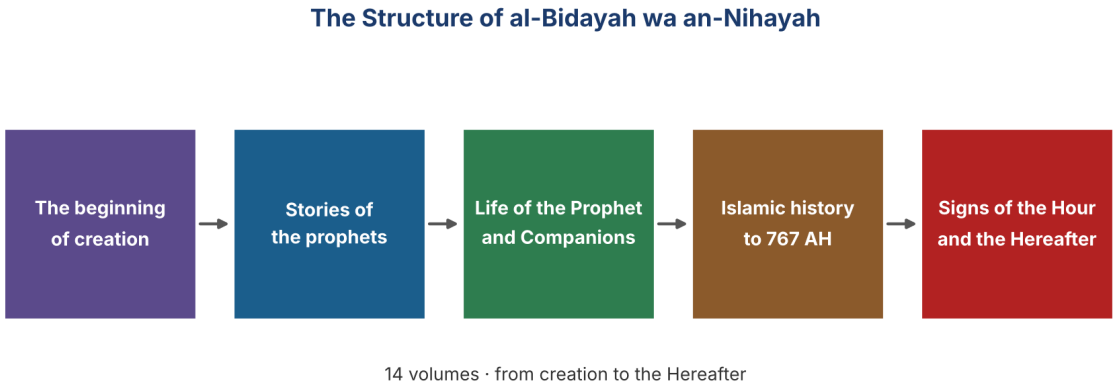


Figure 4: The structure of al-Bidayah wa an-Nihayah.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

FROM THE BEGINNING OF CREATION

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 3191

حَدَّثَنَا عُمَرُ بْنُ حَفْصِ بْنِ غِيَاثٍ، حَدَّثَنَا أَبِي، حَدَّثَنَا الأَعْمَشُ، حَدَّثَنَا جَامِعُ بْنُ شَدَّادٍ، عَنْ صَفْوَانَ بْنِ مُحْرِزٍ، أَنَّهُ حَدَّثَهُ عَنْ عِمْرَانَ بْنِ حُصَيْنٍ ـ رضى الله عنهما ـ قَالَ دَخَلْتُ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم وَعَقَلْتُ نَاقَتِي بِالْبَابِ، فَأَتَاهُ نَاسٌ مِنْ بَنِي تَمِيمٍ فَقَالَ « اقْبَلُوا الْبُشْرَى يَا بَنِي تَمِيمٍ ». قَالُوا قَدْ بَشَّرْتَنَا فَأَعْطِنَا. مَرَّتَيْنِ، ثُمَّ دَخَلَ عَلَيْهِ نَاسٌ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْيَمَنِ فَقَالَ « اقْبَلُوا الْبُشْرَى يَا أَهْلَ الْيَمَنِ، إِذْ لَمْ يَقْبَلْهَا بَنُو تَمِيمٍ ». قَالُوا قَدْ قَبِلْنَا يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، قَالُوا جِئْنَاكَ نَسْأَلُكَ عَنْ هَذَا الأَمْرِ قَالَ « كَانَ اللَّهُ وَلَمْ يَكُنْ شَىْءٌ غَيْرُهُ، وَكَانَ عَرْشُهُ عَلَى الْمَاءِ، وَكَتَبَ فِي الذِّكْرِ كُلَّ شَىْءٍ، وَخَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالأَرْضَ ». فَنَادَى مُنَادٍ ذَهَبَتْ نَاقَتُكَ يَا ابْنَ الْحُصَيْنِ. فَانْطَلَقْتُ فَإِذَا هِيَ يَقْطَعُ دُونَهَا السَّرَابُ، فَوَاللَّهِ لَوَدِدْتُ أَنِّي كُنْتُ تَرَكْتُهَا.

TRANSLATION:

‘Imran bin Husain رضى الله عنهما said: I entered upon the Prophet ﷺ and tied my she-camel at the door. Then some people of Bani Tamim came to him, and he said: **“Accept the good tidings, O Bani Tamim.”** They said: “You have given us good tidings, so give us (something).” (They said it) twice. Then some people of Yemen entered upon him, and he said: **“Accept the good tidings, O people of Yemen, since Bani Tamim did not accept them.”** They said: “We accept, O Messenger of Allah.” They said: “We have come to ask you about the beginning of this matter (creation).” He said: **“Allah existed and nothing existed other than Him, and His Throne was upon the water, and He wrote everything in the Record (al-Dhikr), and He created the heavens and the earth.”** Then a caller called out: “Your she-camel has run away, O Ibn al-Husain!” So I went off, and found that a mirage had come between me and it. By Allah, I wish I had left it (and stayed to listen).

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from ‘Umar bin Hafs bin Ghiyath, from his father, Hafs bin Ghiyath, from Sulaiman al-A‘mash, from Jami‘ bin Shaddad, from Safwan bin Muhriz, from ‘Imran bin Husain رضى الله عنهما, from the Prophet ﷺ.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of the Beginning of Creation, Hadith No. 3191 (Book 59, Hadith 2).

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:3191

Like at-Tabari before him, Ibn Kathir began history with ***creation***, because human history is part of ***Allah’s decree***.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

THE SIGNS OF THE HOUR

The final volume of al-Bidayah wa an-Nihayah discusses future events, including ***the descent of the Prophet 'Isa (peace be upon him)***. Among the authentic hadith about it:

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 3448

حَدَّثَنَا إِسْحَاقُ، أَخْبَرَنَا يَعْقُوبُ بْنُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، حَدَّثَنَا أَبِي، عَنْ صَالِحٍ، عَنِ ابْنِ شِهَابٍ، أَنَّ سَعِيدَ بْنَ الْمُسَيَّبِ، سَمِعَ أَبَا هُرَيْرَةَ ـ رضى الله عنه ـ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم « وَالَّذِي نَفْسِي بِيَدِهِ، لَيُوشِكَنَّ أَنْ يَنْزِلَ فِيكُمُ ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ حَكَمًا عَدْلاً، فَيَكْسِرَ الصَّلِيبَ، وَيَقْتُلَ الْخِنْزِيرَ، وَيَضَعَ الْجِزْيَةَ، وَيَفِيضَ الْمَالُ حَتَّى لاَ يَقْبَلَهُ أَحَدٌ، حَتَّى تَكُونَ السَّجْدَةُ الْوَاحِدَةُ خَيْرًا مِنَ الدُّنْيَا وَمَا فِيهَا ». ثُمَّ يَقُولُ أَبُو هُرَيْرَةَ وَاقْرَءُوا إِنْ شِئْتُمْ {وَإِنْ مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ إِلاَّ لَيُؤْمِنَنَّ بِهِ قَبْلَ مَوْتِهِ وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يَكُونُ عَلَيْهِمْ شَهِيدًا}.

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه said: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **"By the One in whose hand is my soul, the son of Mary will soon descend among you as a just judge. He will break the cross, kill the swine and abolish the jizyah, and wealth will overflow until no one will accept it — until a single prostration is better than the world and all it contains."** Then Abu Hurayrah would say: Recite if you wish: *"And there is none from the People of the Scripture but that he will surely believe in Jesus before his death…"* (4:159).

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Ishaq ibn Rahawayh, from Ya'qub ibn Ibrahim ibn Sa'd, from his father, Ibrahim ibn Sa'd al-Zuhri, from Salih ibn Kaysan, from Ibn Shihab al-Zuhri, from Sa'id ibn al-Musayyib, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of the Prophets, chapter on the descent of Jesus son of Mary, Hadith No. 3448. Also narrated by Muslim (No. 155).

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:3448

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

History in Islam ***does not end with the present***. It moves towards the Hereafter. Knowing the signs of the Hour urges us to ***prepare*** with good deeds.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

A HADITH SCHOLAR WHO WROTE

According to Wikipedia, Ibn Kathir also compiled ***al-Jami'***, a hadith collection arranged alphabetically by Companion, and ***al-Takmil***, a catalogue of narrators based on the works of his teachers al-Mizzi and al-Dhahabi. The tradition of writing hadith began with the Companions:

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 113

حَدَّثَنَا عَلِيُّ بْنُ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا سُفْيَانُ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا عَمْرٌو، قَالَ أَخْبَرَنِي وَهْبُ بْنُ مُنَبِّهٍ، عَنْ أَخِيهِ، قَالَ سَمِعْتُ أَبَا هُرَيْرَةَ، يَقُولُ مَا مِنْ أَصْحَابِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم أَحَدٌ أَكْثَرَ حَدِيثًا عَنْهُ مِنِّي، إِلاَّ مَا كَانَ مِنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَمْرٍو فَإِنَّهُ كَانَ يَكْتُبُ وَلاَ أَكْتُبُ. تَابَعَهُ مَعْمَرٌ عَنْ هَمَّامٍ عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ.

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه said: "There is none among the Companions of the Prophet ﷺ who narrated more Hadith from him than I, except 'Abdullah ibn 'Amr, **for he used to write and I did not write**."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from 'Ali ibn 'Abdullah, from Sufyan ibn 'Uyaynah, from 'Amr ibn Dinar, from Wahb ibn Munabbih, from his brother Hammam ibn Munabbih, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه. It is corroborated by Ma'mar from Hammam from Abu Hurayrah.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Knowledge (Kitab al-'Ilm), chapter on the writing of knowledge, Hadith No. 113.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari. It is the statement of a Companion (Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه) about the writing of Hadith in the Prophet's ﷺ time.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:113

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

'Abdullah ibn 'Amr (may Allah be pleased with them) ***wrote***, so his knowledge was preserved. Ibn Kathir continued this tradition by ***compiling and recording*** hadith.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

THE GREAT PLAGUE IN DAMASCUS

In ***749 AH*** (1348 CE), the ***Black Death*** struck Syria, Egypt and Europe. Ibn Kathir ***recorded it in al-Bidayah wa an-Nihayah***: many died each day, and the people of Damascus gathered to pray. The Prophet's ﷺ guidance:

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 5728

حَدَّثَنَا حَفْصُ بْنُ عُمَرَ، حَدَّثَنَا شُعْبَةُ، قَالَ أَخْبَرَنِي حَبِيبُ بْنُ أَبِي ثَابِتٍ، قَالَ سَمِعْتُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ بْنَ سَعْدٍ، قَالَ سَمِعْتُ أُسَامَةَ بْنَ زَيْدٍ، يُحَدِّثُ سَعْدًا عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ «إِذَا سَمِعْتُمْ بِالطَّاعُونِ بِأَرْضٍ فَلاَ تَدْخُلُوهَا، وَإِذَا وَقَعَ بِأَرْضٍ وَأَنْتُمْ بِهَا فَلاَ تَخْرُجُوا مِنْهَا». فَقُلْتُ أَنْتَ سَمِعْتَهُ يُحَدِّثُ سَعْدًا وَلاَ يُنْكِرُهُ قَالَ نَعَمْ.

TRANSLATION:

Usamah ibn Zayd رضى الله عنهما narrated to Sa'd (ibn Abi Waqqas) رضى الله عنه that the Prophet ﷺ said: "**If you hear of a plague in a land, do not enter it; and if it breaks out in a land while you are in it, do not leave it.**" (Ibrahim ibn Sa'd said:) I asked, "Did you yourself hear him narrate it to Sa'd, and Sa'd did not deny it?" He replied, "Yes."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Hafs ibn 'Umar, from Shu'bah, from Habib ibn Abi Thabit, from Ibrahim ibn Sa'd, from Usamah ibn Zayd رضى الله عنهما, who narrated it to Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Medicine (Kitab at-Tibb), chapter on what has been mentioned about the plague, Hadith No. 5728.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:5728

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

Over 1,400 years ago, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ taught ***the principle of quarantine***: do not enter a plague-stricken land, and do not leave it. Ibn Kathir's record of the plague of 749 AH is ***an important historical source*** — and in the time of COVID-19, Muslims once again returned to this Hadith.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

THE AFFAIR OF A BELIEVER

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 2999

حَدَّثَنَا هَدَّابُ بْنُ خَالِدٍ الأَزْدِيُّ، وَشَيْبَانُ بْنُ فَرُّوخَ، جَمِيعًا عَنْ سُلَيْمَانَ بْنِ الْمُغِيرَةِ، - وَاللَّفْظُ لِشَيْبَانَ - حَدَّثَنَا سُلَيْمَانُ، حَدَّثَنَا ثَابِتٌ، عَنْ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ بْنِ أَبِي لَيْلَى، عَنْ صُهَيْبٍ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم « عَجَبًا لأَمْرِ الْمُؤْمِنِ إِنَّ أَمْرَهُ كُلَّهُ خَيْرٌ وَلَيْسَ ذَاكَ لأَحَدٍ إِلاَّ لِلْمُؤْمِنِ إِنْ أَصَابَتْهُ سَرَّاءُ شَكَرَ فَكَانَ خَيْرًا لَهُ وَإِنْ أَصَابَتْهُ ضَرَّاءُ صَبَرَ فَكَانَ خَيْرًا لَهُ ».

TRANSLATION:

Suhaib رضى الله عنه said: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **"How wonderful is the affair of the believer! All of his affairs are good for him, and this is for no one except the believer. If something pleasing befalls him, he is grateful, and that is good for him. And if hardship befalls him, he is patient, and that is good for him."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Haddab ibn Khalid and Shaiban ibn Farrukh, from Sulaiman ibn al-Mughirah, from Thabit al-Bunani, from 'Abd ar-Rahman ibn Abi Laila, from Suhaib ar-Rumi رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Asceticism and Softening of Hearts, chapter "The affair of the believer is all good", Hadith No. 2999.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim, the second most authentic book of Hadith after Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:2999

In a plague, a believer is ***patient***, and in blessings he is ***grateful*** — both are good for him.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

LATE NIGHTS WITH THE MUSNAD OF AHMAD

HISTORY NOTE: THE CAUSE OF HIS BLINDNESS

According to Wikipedia, Ibn Kathir ***attributed his blindness*** to ***working late at night*** to rearrange ***the Musnad of Imam Ahmad*** (Book 7) by topic rather than by narrator.

REFERENCES:

Wikipedia, "Ibn Kathir". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_Kathir

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 6464

حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ الْعَزِيزِ بْنُ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ، حَدَّثَنَا سُلَيْمَانُ، عَنْ مُوسَى بْنِ عُقْبَةَ، عَنْ أَبِي سَلَمَةَ بْنِ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ، عَنْ عَائِشَةَ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « سَدِّدُوا وَقَارِبُوا، وَاعْلَمُوا أَنْ لَنْ يُدْخِلَ أَحَدَكُمْ عَمَلُهُ الْجَنَّةَ، وَأَنَّ أَحَبَّ الأَعْمَالِ أَدْوَمُهَا إِلَى اللَّهِ، وَإِنْ قَلَّ

«

TRANSLATION:

'A'ishah رضى الله عنها narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **"Aim for what is right and come as close as you can (to perfection), and know that no one's deeds alone will admit him to Paradise. And the deeds most beloved to Allah are those done consistently, even if they are few."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn 'Abdullah al-Uwaysi, from Sulayman ibn Bilal, from Musa ibn 'Uqbah, from Abu Salamah ibn 'Abd ar-Rahman, from 'A'ishah رضى الله عنها.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Softening the Heart (Kitab ar-Riqaq), Hadith No. 6464.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:6464

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

The deeds most beloved to Allah are ***the most consistent***, even if small. Ibn Kathir worked with steadfastness — yet Islam also teaches ***moderation*** so that the body is not burdened beyond its capacity.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

PATIENCE IN THE LOSS OF SIGHT

HISTORY NOTE: HIS FINAL YEARS IN DAMASCUS

The books of biography mention that at the end of his life, Imam Ibn Kathir ***lost his sight***. He ***passed away in Damascus on Thursday, 26 Sha'ban 774 AH***, and was buried in the as-Sufiyyah cemetery, ***next to the grave of his teacher Ibn Taymiyyah***, as he had requested.

For a scholar whose life was reading and writing, losing his sight was a great trial. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ conveyed Allah's promise for whoever is patient with this trial:

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 5653 — HADITH QUDSI

حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ يُوسُفَ، حَدَّثَنَا اللَّيْثُ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنِي ابْنُ الْهَادِ، عَنْ عَمْرٍو، مَوْلَى الْمُطَّلِبِ عَنْ أَنَسِ بْنِ مَالِكٍ ـ رضى الله عنه ـ قَالَ سَمِعْتُ النَّبِيَّ صلى الله عليه وسلم يَقُولُ «إِنَّ اللَّهَ قَالَ إِذَا ابْتَلَيْتُ عَبْدِي بِحَبِيبَتَيْهِ فَصَبَرَ عَوَّضْتُهُ مِنْهُمَا الْجَنَّةَ». يُرِيدُ عَيْنَيْهِ. تَابَعَهُ أَشْعَثُ بْنُ جَابِرٍ وَأَبُو ظِلاَلٍ عَنْ أَنَسٍ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم.

TRANSLATION:

Anas ibn Malik رضى الله عنه said: I heard the Prophet ﷺ say: **"Allah said: If I test My servant with (the loss of) his two beloved ones and he is patient, I will compensate him for them with Paradise."** He meant his two eyes.

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from 'Abdullah ibn Yusuf, from al-Layth ibn Sa'd, from Ibn al-Had, from 'Amr, the freed slave of al-Muttalib, from Anas ibn Malik رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of the Sick, Hadith No. 5653.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:5653

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

Whoever loses his "two beloved ones" and remains ***patient***, Allah compensates him with ***Paradise***.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

VALUING TIME

A tafsir, a 14-volume history, a hadith collection and a catalogue of narrators — all were born of a man who ***valued time***.

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 6412

حَدَّثَنَا الْمَكِّيُّ بْنُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، أَخْبَرَنَا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ سَعِيدٍ ـ هُوَ ابْنُ أَبِي هِنْدٍ ـ عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنِ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ ـ رضى الله عنهما ـ قَالَ قَالَ النَّبِيُّ صلى الله عليه وسلم « نِعْمَتَانِ مَغْبُونٌ فِيهِمَا كَثِيرٌ مِنَ النَّاسِ، الصِّحَّةُ وَالْفَرَاغُ ». قَالَ عَبَّاسٌ الْعَنْبَرِيُّ حَدَّثَنَا صَفْوَانُ بْنُ عِيسَى، عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ سَعِيدِ بْنِ أَبِي هِنْدٍ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، سَمِعْتُ ابْنَ عَبَّاسٍ، عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم مِثْلَهُ.

TRANSLATION:

Ibn ‘Abbas رضى الله عنهما said: The Prophet ﷺ said: **“There are two blessings in which many people are deceived: health and free time.”**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from al-Makki ibn Ibrahim, from ‘Abdullah ibn Sa‘id ibn Abi Hind, from his father, Sa‘id ibn Abi Hind, from ‘Abdullah ibn ‘Abbas رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Heart-Softeners (Kitab al-Riqaq), chapter “There is no life except the life of the Hereafter”, Hadith No. 6412.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:6412

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

Health and free time are the capital of a student of knowledge. Use them both before they are gone.

BLESSING	HOW TO USE IT
Health	Reading, writing and attending classes.
Free time	Reading one page of tafsir each day.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

TAFSIR IBN KATHIR TODAY

Almost seven centuries after his death, Ibn Kathir's ***Tafsir al-Qur'an al-'Azim*** remains among the ***most widely read*** tafsirs in the Muslim world. The reasons: its language is easy, its method sound (the Qur'an by the Qur'an, then the Sunnah), and he often ***assesses the grade of reports***.

ABRIDGEMENTS

Because the original is long, many modern scholars produced ***abridgements***, among them ***'Umdat at-Tafsir*** by Ahmad Shakir and ***Mukhtasar Tafsir Ibn Kathir*** by Muhammad 'Ali as-Sabuni. These remove weak reports and long chains.

IN THE MALAY WORLD

Tafsir Ibn Kathir has been ***translated into Malay and Indonesian*** and is read in classes at mosques, surau and pondok schools. Many speakers in Malaysia refer to it when explaining verses. This is ***beneficial knowledge*** — a reward that keeps flowing to its author.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

RECITING AND REFLECTING ON THE QUR'AN

The aim of tafsir is for the Qur'an to be ***read and understood***. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ promised the Qur'an's intercession for those who recite it:

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 804

حَدَّثَنِي الْحَسَنُ بْنُ عَلِيٍّ الْحُلْوَانِيُّ، حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو تَوْبَةَ، - وَهُوَ الرَّبِيعُ بْنُ نَافِعٍ - حَدَّثَنَا مُعَاوِيَةُ، - يَعْنِي ابْنَ سَلاَّمٍ - عَنْ زَيْدٍ، أَنَّهُ سَمِعَ أَبَا سَلاَّمٍ، يَقُولُ حَدَّثَنِي أَبُو أُمَامَةَ، الْبَاهِلِيُّ قَالَ سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم يَقُولُ «اقْرَءُوا الْقُرْآنَ فَإِنَّهُ يَأْتِي يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ شَفِيعًا لأَصْحَابِهِ اقْرَءُوا الزَّهْرَاوَيْنِ الْبَقَرَةَ وَسُورَةَ آلِ عِمْرَانَ فَإِنَّهُمَا تَأْتِيَانِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ كَأَنَّهُمَا غَمَامَتَانِ أَوْ كَأَنَّهُمَا غَيَايَتَانِ أَوْ كَأَنَّهُمَا فِرْقَانِ مِنْ طَيْرٍ صَوَافَّ تُحَاجَّانِ عَنْ أَصْحَابِهِمَا اقْرَءُوا سُورَةَ الْبَقَرَةِ فَإِنَّ أَخْذَهَا بَرَكَةٌ وَتَرْكَهَا حَسْرَةٌ وَلاَ تَسْتَطِيعُهَا الْبَطَلَةُ». قَالَ مُعَاوِيَةُ بَلَغَنِي أَنَّ الْبَطَلَةَ السَّحَرَةُ.

TRANSLATION:

Abu Umamah al-Bahili رضى الله عنه said: I heard the Messenger of Allah ﷺ say: **"Recite the Qur'an, for it will come on the Day of Resurrection as an intercessor for its companions. Recite the two bright ones — al-Baqarah and Al 'Imran — for they will come on the Day of Resurrection like two clouds, or two shades, or two flocks of birds in ranks, pleading for their companions. Recite Surah al-Baqarah, for taking it is a blessing, abandoning it is a regret, and the sorcerers cannot withstand it."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from al-Hasan ibn 'Ali al-Hulwani, from Abu Tawbah ar-Rabi' ibn Nafi', from Mu'awiyah ibn Sallam, from Zayd (ibn Sallam), from Abu Sallam, from Abu Umamah al-Bahili رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of the Prayer of Travellers, Chapter: The Virtue of Reciting the Qur'an and Surah al-Baqarah, Hadith No. 804.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim, the second most authentic book of Hadith after Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:804

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

Recite the Qur'an, and use a tafsir such as Tafsir Ibn Kathir to ***understand it***. The Qur'an that is recited and acted upon will be ***an intercessor***.

STEP	HOW TO READ A TAFSIR
1	Read the verse and its translation first.

STEP	HOW TO READ A TAFSIR
2	Read the commentary, especially the verses and hadith it quotes.
3	Note one lesson and act upon it.
4	Ask a teacher about what is unclear.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

KNOWLEDGE THAT KEEPS FLOWING

HISTORY NOTE: DEATH AND LEGACY

According to Wikipedia, Ibn Kathir died in Damascus in ***February 1373 CE (774 AH)*** and was buried ***next to his teacher, Ibn Taymiyyah***. His tafsir had limited impact in the premodern period, but became ***widely popular in modern times***.

REFERENCES:

Wikipedia, "Ibn Kathir". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_Kathir

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 1631

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ أَيُّوبَ، وَقُتَيْبَةُ، - يَعْنِي ابْنَ سَعِيدٍ - وَابْنُ حُجْرٍ قَالُوا حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ، - هُوَ ابْنُ جَعْفَرٍ - عَنِ الْعَلاَءِ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « إِذَا مَاتَ الإِنْسَانُ انْقَطَعَ عَنْهُ عَمَلُهُ إِلاَّ مِنْ ثَلاَثَةٍ إِلاَّ مِنْ صَدَقَةٍ جَارِيَةٍ أَوْ عِلْمٍ يُنْتَفَعُ بِهِ أَوْ وَلَدٍ صَالِحٍ يَدْعُو لَهُ ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **"When a person dies, his deeds come to an end except for three: ongoing charity, knowledge that is benefited from, or a righteous child who prays for him."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Yahya ibn Ayyub, Qutaybah ibn Sa'id and 'Ali ibn Hujr, from Isma'il ibn Ja'far, from al-'Ala' ibn 'Abd al-Rahman, from his father, 'Abd al-Rahman ibn Ya'qub, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Wills (Kitab al-Wasiyyah), chapter on the reward that reaches a person after death, Hadith No. 1631.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim, the second most authentic book of Hadith after Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:1631

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 100 (MUTTAFAQ 'ALAIH)

حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ بْنُ أَبِي أُوَيْسٍ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنِي مَالِكٌ، عَنْ هِشَامِ بْنِ عُرْوَةَ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَمْرِو بْنِ الْعَاصِ، قَالَ سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم يَقُولُ «إِنَّ اللَّهَ لاَ يَقْبِضُ الْعِلْمَ انْتِزَاعًا، يَنْتَزِعُهُ مِنَ الْعِبَادِ، وَلَكِنْ يَقْبِضُ الْعِلْمَ بِقَبْضِ الْعُلَمَاءِ، حَتَّى إِذَا لَمْ يُبْقِ عَالِمًا، اتَّخَذَ النَّاسُ رُءُوسًا جُهَّالاً فَسُئِلُوا، فَأَفْتَوْا بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ، فَضَلُّوا وَأَضَلُّوا». قَالَ الْفِرَبْرِيُّ حَدَّثَنَا عَبَّاسٌ قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا قُتَيْبَةُ حَدَّثَنَا جَرِيرٌ عَنْ هِشَامٍ نَحْوَهُ.

TRANSLATION:

'Abdullah ibn 'Amr ibn al-'As رضى الله عنهما said: I heard the Messenger of Allah ﷺ say: **"Allah does not take away knowledge by snatching it from His servants, but He takes away knowledge by taking away the scholars, until, when no scholar remains, people take ignorant leaders. They are asked and they give rulings without knowledge; so they go astray and lead others astray."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Isma'il ibn Abi Uways, from Imam Malik, from Hisham ibn 'Urwah, from his father, 'Urwah ibn az-Zubayr, from 'Abdullah ibn 'Amr ibn al-'As رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Knowledge, Hadith No. 100. Also narrated by Muslim (No. 2673).

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:100

LESSONS

Scholars die and knowledge can be taken away with them — except knowledge that is ***written and taught***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir is ***beneficial knowledge***.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

ESTABLISHED REPORTS AND POPULAR STORIES

Some things about Imam Ibn Kathir are often confused. The following table separates what is established from what needs checking.

THE STORIES AND THEIR STATUS

POPULAR STATEMENT	STATUS
Born in 701 AH near Busra and died in Damascus on 26 Sha'ban 774 AH.	Established in the books of biography; some give 700 AH.
A student of Ibn Taymiyyah and son-in-law of al-Mizzi.	Established in the books of biography.
Lost his sight at the end of his life.	Reported in the books of biography.
Buried next to Ibn Taymiyyah.	Reported in the books of biography.
"Every narration in Tafsir Ibn Kathir is authentic."	Not true. He cites narrations with their chains and often points out their weakness himself.
"Qisas al-Anbiya' is a separate book written by Ibn Kathir."	It is in fact the opening part of al-Bidayah wa an-Nihayah, later published separately.

REFLECTION — LEARNING FROM A CAREFUL EXEGETE

Imam Ibn Kathir turned to the Qur'an and Sunnah before the words of people. We too should ***return to the original sources*** before accepting an interpretation.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

LESSONS AND CONCLUSION

LESSONS FROM THIS EBOOK

First: The Qur'an has no contradiction; its verses explain one another (4:82).

Second: Explain the Qur'an by the Qur'an, then by the Sunnah (Sahih al-Bukhari 4776).

Third: Do not build creed on unauthenticated stories (Sahih al-Bukhari 4485).

Fourth: Take lessons from the best of stories in the Qur'an (12:3).

Fifth: Be patient with the trial of sight and illness (Sahih al-Bukhari 5653).

Sixth: Learn from many teachers and respect them all.

Seventh: Follow the Prophet's ﷺ guidance in a plague — do not enter and do not leave (Sahih al-Bukhari 5728).

Eighth: Write beneficial knowledge, for it is read long after we are gone.

Ninth: Care for and educate orphans (Sahih al-Bukhari 5304).

Tenth: Learn and teach the Qur'an (Sahih al-Bukhari 5027).

Eleventh: Convey knowledge even if a single verse, and never lie in the Prophet's ﷺ name (Sahih al-Bukhari 3461).

Twelfth: The best deeds are the most consistent (Sahih al-Bukhari 6464).

Thirteenth: Recite the Qur'an; it will intercede (Sahih Muslim 804).

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

CONCLUSION

Imam Ibn Kathir رحمه الله passed away in Damascus in 774 AH. His tafsir is still read in mosques, schools and homes throughout the world. With this book, the group of ***exegetes*** in **Tracing the Scholars of Islam** is complete. In sha' Allah, the next books will continue the journey with other scholars. And Allah knows best.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

GLOSSARY AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS

GLOSSARY

TERM	MEANING
Tafsir of the Qur'an by the Qur'an	Explaining a verse by another related verse; the foremost method of tafsir.
Isra'iliyyat	Reports originating from the People of the Book (Jews and Christians).
Dar al-Hadith	An institution dedicated to teaching the science of Hadith.
Mamluks	The state ruling Egypt and Syria (648–923 AH).
Ta'un	An infectious epidemic causing many deaths.
Mukhtasar	An abridgement of a long book.
Hafiz	A Hadith scholar with an exceptional memory.
Khatib	The one who delivers the sermon in a mosque.
Musnad	A hadith book arranged by the Companions who narrated them.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Ibn Kathir learned from four great teachers with different views. How can we benefit from teachers who differ?

2. Why must Isra'iliyyat reports be filtered before being shared?

3. What does the Hadith on plague teach us after the experience of COVID-19?

4. Ibn Kathir's knowledge is still read today. What "beneficial knowledge" can we leave behind?

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

REFERENCES

THE QUR'AN

The Noble Qur'an, Uthmani text and Sahih International translation. https://quran.com

HADITH

Sahih al-Bukhari 75, 100, 113, 3191, 3448, 3461, 4485, 4776, 5027, 5304, 5653, 5728, 6412, 6464. https://sunnah.com/bukhari

Sahih Muslim 804, 1631. https://sunnah.com/muslim

Wikipedia, "Ibn Kathir". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_Kathir

Wikipedia, "Al-Bidaya wa l-Nihaya". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Bidaya_wa_l-Nihaya

Ibn Hajar, ad-Durar al-Kaminah; Ibn Kathir, al-Bidayah wa an-Nihayah (events of 749 AH).

BOOKS OF BIOGRAPHY AND OTHER REFERENCES

Ibn Kathir, Tafsir al-Qur'an al-'Azim (introduction); Ibn Hajar, ad-Durar al-Kaminah; Ibn al-'Imad, Shadharat adh-Dhahab; adh-Dhahabi, al-Mu'jam al-Mukhtass.

Tarajm, "Isma'il ibn 'Umar ibn Kathir". https://tarajm.com/people/11613

HadithAnswers, "A Brief Biography of Hafiz Ibn Kathir". https://hadithanswers.com/a-brief-biography-of-hafiz-ibn-kathir-rahimahullah/

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

SUPPORT & DONATIONS

This eBook is published **entirely free** for Muslims and is **never to be sold**. Donations are most welcome to help with the costs of research, hosting the website quranscience.my and publishing further eBooks — but they are **not obligatory**. May Allah accept every donation as an ongoing charity (sadaqah jariyah).

SURAH AL-BAQARAH 2:261

مَّثَلُ ٱلَّذِينَ يُنفِقُونَ أَمۡوَٰلَهُمۡ فِي سَبِيلِ ٱللَّهِ كَمَثَلِ حَبَّةٍ أَنۢبَتَتۡ سَبۡعَ سَنَابِلَ فِي كُلِّ سُنۢبُلَةٖ مِّاْئَةُ حَبَّةٖۗ وَٱللَّهُ يُضَٰعِفُ لِمَن يَشَآءُۚ وَٱللَّهُ وَٰسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ ٢٦١

The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed [of grain] which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies [His reward] for whom He wills. And Allah is all-Encompassing and Knowing.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/2:261

SURAH SABA' 34:39

قُلۡ إِنَّ رَبِّي يَبۡسُطُ ٱلرِّزۡقَ لِمَن يَشَآءُ مِنۡ عِبَادِهِۦ وَيَقۡدِرُ لَهُۥۚ وَمَآ أَنفَقۡتُم مِّن شَيۡءٖ فَهُوَ يُخۡلِفُهُۥۖ وَهُوَ خَيۡرُ ٱلرَّٰزِقِينَ ٣٩

Say, "Indeed, my Lord extends provision for whom He wills of His servants and restricts [it] for him. But whatever thing you spend [in His cause] - He will compensate it; and He is the best of providers."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/34:39

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 2588

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ أَيُّوبَ، وَقُتَيْبَةُ، وَابْنُ، حُجْرٍ قَالُوا حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ، - وَهُوَ ابْنُ جَعْفَرٍ - عَنِ الْعَلاَءِ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « مَا نَقَصَتْ صَدَقَةٌ مِنْ مَالٍ وَمَا زَادَ اللَّهُ عَبْدًا بِعَفْوٍ إِلاَّ عِزًّا وَمَا تَوَاضَعَ أَحَدٌ لِلَّهِ إِلاَّ رَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "Charity does not decrease wealth.

Allah does not increase a servant who forgives except in honour. And no one humbles himself for the sake of Allah except that Allah raises him in rank."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Yahya bin Ayyub, Qutaibah bin Sa'id and 'Ali bin Hujr, from Isma'il bin Ja'far, from al-'Ala' bin 'Abd al-Rahman, from his father 'Abd al-Rahman bin Ya'qub, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه .

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Virtue, Good Manners and Joining the Ties of Kinship (Kitab al-Birr wa al-Silah wa al-Adab), chapter on the encouragement of forgiveness and humility, Hadith No. 2588.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:2588

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 1631

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ أَيُّوبَ، وَقُتَيْبَةُ - يَعْنِي ابْنَ سَعِيدٍ - وَابْنُ حُجْرٍ قَالُوا حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ، - هُوَ ابْنُ جَعْفَرٍ - عَنِ الْعَلاَءِ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « إِذَا مَاتَ الإِنْسَانُ انْقَطَعَ عَنْهُ عَمَلُهُ إِلاَّ مِنْ ثَلاَثَةٍ إِلاَّ مِنْ صَدَقَةٍ جَارِيَةٍ أَوْ عِلْمٍ يُنْتَفَعُ بِهِ أَوْ وَلَدٍ صَالِحٍ يَدْعُو لَهُ ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "When a person dies, his deeds come to an end except for three: an ongoing charity, knowledge that is benefited from, or a righteous child who prays for him."

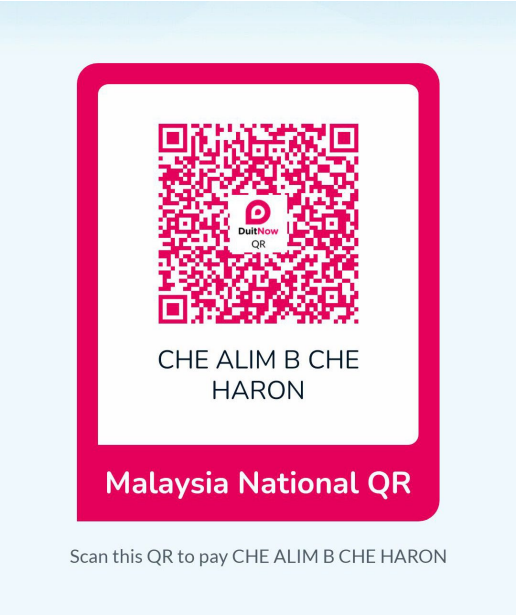
CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Yahya bin Ayyub, Qutaibah bin Sa'id and 'Ali bin Hujr, from Isma'il bin Ja'far, from al-'Ala' bin 'Abd al-Rahman, from his father 'Abd al-Rahman bin Ya'qub, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه .

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Wills (Kitab al-Wasiyyah), chapter on the reward that reaches a person after his death, Hadith No. 1631.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:1631

JAZAKUMULLAHU KHAIRAN KATHIRA



Scan the QR code above (DuitNow, Malaysia) to donate.

DONATE

International donors: click the DONATE button or visit paypal.me/quranscience

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims