

Isra and Mi'raj, the night journey and the gift of prayer

The night journey joins Makkah, Jerusalem and the heavens in one sign. Its lasting daily gift is the prayer that brings a believer back to Allah.

CENTREPIECE Surah al-Isra 17:1, Sahih al-Bukhari 349

FIRST KHUTBAH

1. Allah begins the account with His perfection

Surah al-Isra opens by declaring Allah free of imperfection and describing the night journey of His servant from al-Masjid al-Haram to al-Masjid al-Aqsa (al-Isra 17:1). The event is one of Allah's signs, not a limit placed on His power.

Source: Quran 17:1

2. The five prayers carry the reward of fifty

The hadith of the ascension describes the prayers being prescribed, then reduced to five while retaining the reward of fifty (Bukhari 349). Mercy did not remove the meeting. It made the meeting possible every day.

Source: Bukhari 349

3. Al-Aqsa belongs inside Muslim memory

The verse ties the Sacred Mosque to the Furthest Mosque. Remembering the journey should deepen love for al-Aqsa, concern for people facing injustice around it and commitment to prayer wherever we live.

SECOND KHUTBAH

Avoid claiming a precise anniversary date where scholars have differed. Keep the khutbah with what is established: the journey, the signs of Allah and the obligation and gift of the five prayers.

Suggested closing: O Allah, make prayer the comfort of our hearts, protect al-Masjid al-Aqsa and its people, and let the signs You showed increase us in faith and obedience.

ONE ACTION FOR THIS WEEK

Choose one prayer that is regularly rushed or delayed and protect its time, preparation and first takbir for the coming week.

PREPARATION NOTES

1. Read every cited verse or hadith in full before using it.
2. Add one example your own congregation will recognise.
3. Check questions of fiqh and recognised disagreement with a qualified local scholar.

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