

Al-Khulafā ar-Rāshidūn

Abū Bakr as-Siddīque ~ 'Umar bin al-Khattāb

'Uthmān bin 'Affān ~ 'Ali Ibn Abī Tālib

رضي الله عنهم

Compiled by: Abū Mu'ādh Taqweem

4 Very Short Biographies

Full Names – When they were Born – Physical Descriptions –
When they accepted Islam – Number of Marriages & Names
of Wives – Number of Children & their Names – Virtues –
How they Died and when – Length of their Khilāfa

Abū Bakr as-Siddīque رضي الله عنه

Name: (Abū Bakr) ‘Abdullāh bin 'Uthmān Ibn 'Āmir al-Qurashī at-Taymī

Birth: Born in Makkah 2 years after the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم

Description: He was thin, fair skinned, with a light beard upon the cheeks, his eyes were set back in his head, and he would dye his beard with henna. It is narrated he had a beautiful appearance.

Acceptance of Islam: He was the 1st of the men to embrace. The day he embraced he had 40,000 dirhams which he spent for the sake of Allāh. Senior figures embraced through him, such as 'Uthmān Ibn 'Affān رضي الله عنه.

History: He accompanied the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم in Makkah, as well as being at his side in migration to Madīnah, through to the cave and onwards. He witnessed everything; the battle of Badr, Uhud, al-Khandaq, Conquering of Makkah...

Marriage: 4 wives

Children: 6 - 'Abdullāh, 'AbdurRahmān, Muhammad, Asmā, 'Āisha, Umm Kulthūm.

Virtues: He was the greatest of the Companions and the most beloved man to the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم.

Death: He became ill for 15 days prior to death after falling into a fever, and died in the year 13h at the age of 63.

Length of Khilāfa: 2 years, 3 months, 10 days. (11h - 13h).

'Umar bin al-Khattāb رضي الله عنه

Name: (Abū Hafs) 'Umar bin al-Khattāb bin Nufayl al-'Adawī (known as al-Fārūq)

Birth: Born approximately 13 years after the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم.

Description: He was a tall and physically large man, with a brown complexion (although some reports state he was of a very fair white complexion), he had extremely white teeth, and was also ambidextrous. He laughed only a little and rarely joked, and was a strong, feared man.

Acceptance of Islam: He embraced in Makkah at the age of 26/27, and that was six years after the Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم was initially given revelation and Prophethood.

History: He was the ambassador for Quraish prior to Islam. He also witnessed Badr & all events with the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم. During his leadership Islam spread to vast areas of Iraq, Jordan, Syria,

Persia, and Egypt. He was also the one who led the Muslims in prayer during the final illness of Abū Bakr رضي الله عنه.

Marriages: 7 wives

Children: 13 - Zaid the 1st, Zaid the 2nd, 'Āsim, 'Abdullāh, 'AbdurRahmān the 1st, 'AbdurRahmān the 2nd, 'AbdurRahmān the 3rd, 'Ubaydullah, 'Iyād, Hafsa, Ruqayyah, Zainab, Fātimah.

Virtues: Such was his stature that the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم stated about him, "Shaytān does not find you traversing upon a pathway except that he goes a different way". [Bukharī: 3683]

Death: He was martyred, stabbed whilst leading the Fajr Prayer with a double-sided dagger by Abū Lu'lu'a Fayroz al-Majūsī six times. Abu Lu'lu'a fled stabbing thirteen more men in escaping, killing six of them too before committing suicide. 'Umar رضي الله عنه eventually died three days later, at the end of Dhul-Hijjah year 23h. He died aged 57, and it is said 63 (if so, he would be the same age as Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم and Abū Bakr رضي الله عنه).

Length of Khilāfah: 10 years, 6 months. (13h - 23h)

'Uthmān bin 'Affān رضي الله عنه

Name: (Abū 'Amr/Abu 'Abdillāh) 'Uthmaān bin 'Affān ibn Abil-'Aas al-Qurashī al-Umawī (Dhun-Nūrain - 'Possessor of the 2 lights')

Birth: Approximately 3-5 years after the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم.

Description: It is mentioned that he had a beautiful face, a large beard, medium build with wide shoulders, plentiful head hair, and a brown complexion.

Acceptance of Islam: He embraced at the age of 34 through Abū Bakr رضي الله عنه. It is mentioned he was from the first 10 people who accepted Islam.

History: • Under his leadership the first Muslim Navy was formed (battleships etc).

- Under his leadership the Qur-ān was compiled and written into unified Masāhif.
- Conquered Azerbaijan and Armenia.

- Islam spread far West, as far as Tunisia where the Romans were defeated by the army of 'Uthmān رضي الله عنه.
- Also East up to the Caspian Sea, in the region of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

Marriages: 8 wives

Children: 15 - 'Abdullāh the 1st, 'Abdullāh the 2nd, 'Amr, Khālid, Abān, 'Umar, Maryam, al-Walīd, Sa'eed, Umm 'Uthmān, 'Utba, 'Āisha, Umm Abān, Umm 'Amr, 'Anbasa.

Virtues: He made both migrations, the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم said regarding him, "Shall I not be shy of a man the Angels are shy of?".
[Muslim: 2401]

He married two of the Prophet's صلى الله عليه وسلم daughters – Ruqayya, then, after her death, Umm Kulthūm.

Death: He was martyred, it is mentioned 'Abdullāh Ibn Saba the Hypocrite incited the people of various lands against 'Uthmān رضي الله عنه. They came, but were convinced to return, however a forged letter with 'Uthmān's رضي الله عنه stamp on it ordering the assassination of all those who had come from Egypt led them to return to kill him. In the attack

'Uthmān's رضي الله عنه fingers were cut off with blood falling onto Sūrah al-Baqarah verse 137 in the Mus'haf he was holding. His wife's fingers were also cut in the attack, until they finally killed him. He Died in Dhul-Hijja year 35h, at the age of 82.

Length of Khilāfah: 12 years (to be precise, 12 days short; 11 years, 11 months and 18 days). (23h - 35h)

'Ali Ibn Abī Tālib رضي الله عنه

Name: (Abul-Hasan & Abū Turāb) 'Ali ibn Abī Tālib ('Abd Manāf) ibn 'Abdil-Muttalib al-Qurashī al-Hāshimī.

Siblings: It is mentioned 'Ali رضي الله عنه was the youngest, his brother Ja'far was 10 years older than him, his brother 'Aqīl was 20 years older than him, and his brother Tālib was 30 years older than him. He also had two sisters, Umm Hāni & Jumānah.

Birth: Approximately 30 years after Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم.

Description: He was of a deep brown complexion, a large man of short to medium height. He had a large beard extending over his chest and shoulders. In some reports it mentions him having white hair and beard in older age, without dyeing it.

Acceptance of Islam: He was the first from the youth to accept Islam, some reports state he was just 7 years old upon embracing. It is mentioned he concealed it from his father (Abū Tālib) until one day Abū Tālib said to him, "Have you embraced?", he said, "Yes",

Abū Tālib said (in agreement), "Aid and support your Uncle's son" (i.e. the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم).

History: He witnessed all the events, Badr, Uhud, Khandaq...except Tabūk. He was the flag-bearer for the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم.

Marriages: His 1st marriage was to Fātimah رضي الله عنها, daughter of Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم, (Hasan and Hussain رضي الله عنهما among other siblings were born from this marriage) and he did not marry anyone else until her death six months after the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم died, thereafter he married seven times.

Children: 14 sons & 19 daughters. (In some reports, 21 sons & 18 daughters).

Virtues: • Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم testified that Allāh and he himself love 'Ali رضي الله عنه. [Bukhārī: 4210]

• The Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم also mentioned his high status and said to him, "Are you not pleased to be from me (in status) like the status of Hārūn to Mūsā عليهما السلام?" [Bukhārī: 3706]

Death: He was martyred, killed by the Khārijī 'AbdurRahmān ibn Muļjim with a poisoned sword on the 17th of Ramadān in the year 40h.

Ibn Muļjim along with two co-conspirators planned to kill three on the same night:

> Ibn Muļjim to kill 'Ali رضي الله عنه

> al-Burak Ibn 'Abdillah to kill Mu'āwiyah Ibn Abī Sufyān رضي الله عنه.

> 'Amr Ibn Bukair to kill 'Amr bin al-'Ās رضي الله عنه.

Ibn Muļjim succeeded, but the other two failed.

Length of Khilāfah: Approximately 4 years 8/9 months. (35h - 40h)

Translator's note: Varying statements exist relating to specifics of certain details ~ as with all such affairs of History ~ so be informed that differences do exist occasionally.

The following five books were used to compile these four short and brief biographies:

“Tabaqāt” of Ibn S’ad

“Tarīkh” of at-Tabarī

“Siyar” of ad-Dhahabī

“Istī’āb” of Ibn ‘Abdil-Barr

“Tahdhīb” of al-Mizzī

(المصادر: طبقات ابن سعد، تاريخ الطبري، السير للذهبي، الاستيعاب لابن عبد البر ، تهذيب الكمال للمزي)

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