

TIMES OF SALAAH

باب المواقيت



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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful.

INTRODUCTION

This is the chapter that discusses the rulings of the timings of Salaah based on the famous Hanafi text - Hidayah. This chapter is based on three main sub-chapters, which are:

1. The times of Salaah
2. The preferred times of Salaah
3. The makruh times of Salaah.

This document does not discuss the hadith discussions or logical proofs, rather it highlights the legal rulings of Imam Abu Hanifah (150 A.H), Imam Abu Yusuf (182 A.H) and Imam Muhammad (189 A.H). All this information is displayed in a presentable method and in an illustrative way. This is done by using tables and diagrams. This document can be useful for students, teachers and everyone in general Insha-Allah.

THE TIMES OF SALAAH

Table: Prayer Times - Beginning and End times

SALAAH	START TIME	END TIME
Fajr	Second dawn [1]	Sunrise
Zuhr	After Zawaal [2]	Shadow of each thing is doubled [3]
Asr	When Zuhr ends [4]	Sunset
Maghrib	Sunset	Shafaq disappears [5]
Esha	Shafaq Disappears [6]	When second dawn occurs

[1] - This is when the whiteness spreads in the horizon. This is not to be confused with the first dawn. Which is when the whiteness spreads in the sky and then it is followed by darkness.

[2] - After it descends from its highest point (solar noon).

[3] - This excludes the shadow of Zawaal, and according to another narration - this is also including the shadow of Zawaal. This is the view of Imam Abu Hanifah (رحمه الله). However, according to Imam Abu Yusuf (رحمه الله) and Imam Muhammad (رحمه الله), it ends when the shadow of each thing is equal to its height, plus the shadow of Zawaal.

End time of Zuhr

Imam Abu Hanifah -> Double Shadow

Imam Abu Yusuf and Imam Muhammad -> Single Shadow

Note: Imam Abu Hanifah's reasoning is that when the Hadiths contradict each other, then the timing of Salah won't end based on doubt. Since the single shadow will end first, then there is a possibility that the time of Zuhr is still ongoing due to the other hadith which indicates a double shadow. (See Hidayah for the Hadiths)

[4] - As per the difference of opinions (see point 3).

[5] - According to Imam Abu Hanifah, it is when the whiteness in the horizon disappears. According to Imam Abu Yusuf and Imam Muhammad it is when the redness disappears.

[6] - The time of witr is at the time of Esha, except that it can't be performed before the Fardh of Esha. This is due to the sequence of offering Witr after Fardh of Esha being Wajib, according to Imam Abu Hanifah. So if a person was to offer Witr before the Fardh of Esha unintentionally, then he does not need to repeat it. However if done intentionally he must repeat it.

The time of witr according to Imam Abu Yusuf and Imam Muhammad is after the fardh of Esha. The ending time of Witr is when the second dawn (Subh-Sadiq) occurs, according to all 3 of them.

PREFERRED PRAYER TIMES

Below is the preferred times of Salah - :

Table: Preferred Times

SALAAH	PREFERRED TIME
Fajr	When the sky is clear [1]
Zuhr	Delay in Summer and early in Winter
Asr	Delay in Summer and Winter [2]
Maghrib	Early in Summer and Winter
Esha	Delay till a third of the night [3]

Note: When the day is cloudy it is preferred to pray Asr and Esha early and delay the others. According to Imam Abu Hanifah, it is preferred to delay all the prayers on a cloudy day, due to the permissibility of offering prayers after its time and not before it. (Due to the reason that praying before its fixed time is invalid).

[1] - It shouldn't be delayed so much that there is doubt if the Sun has risen. Also another important point is that there should be enough time to recite the Sunnah Qira'ah and also enough time that if any

nullification of Salaah is discovered, then there is enough time to do wudhu and offer Salaah with the Sunnah Qira'ah.

[2] - It shouldn't be delayed so much that the Sun has become weak (It has become so weak that it is not difficult to directly stare at it).

[3] - A person who has a habit of offering Tahajjud prayers, it is preferred for him to delay Witr till the end of the night. This should only be done if he is certain that he will wake up. He who is uncertain should offer Witr before sleeping.

DISLIKED PRAYER TIMES

Table: Disliked Prayer times (Makruh)

SALAH / SAJDAH	TIME - SUNRISE - MIDDAY - 15 MINS BEFORE SUNSET UNTIL SUNSET	TIME - AFTER PERFORMING FAJR SALAH UNTIL SUNRISE - AFTER PERFORMING ASR SALAH UNTIL 15 MINUTES BEFORE SUNSET
Fard/Wajib Salaah	Invalid, except that day's Asr Salah which will be Makruh Tahrimi but will not be repeated	Permissible
Janazah Salah	If the Janazah was ready before, then it is Makruh Tahrimi to perform it at these times, however, if the Janazah is ready at these times, then it is permissible to perform the Salah	Permissible
Sajdah Tilawah	It is Makruh Tahrimi if the verse was read earlier on at a time which was not detestable, however, if the verse was read at these times, then it is Makruh Tanzihi	Permissible
Nafl Salaah	Makruh Tahrimi	Makruh Tahrimi

Note: Other than the above two mentioned times, it is also Makruh Tahrimi to perform Nafl Salaah in the following times:

- 1) After Subh Sadiq, other than the two Rak'ah Sunnah of Fajr Salah.
- 2) When the Imam appears on the pulpit (Mimbar) for khutbah until the Jumu'ah Salaah is over.
- 3) When the Iqamah for a fardh Salah is being read out, except for Fajr Salah for

which the Sunnah of Fajr may be performed even during the Iqamah of Fajr Salaah.

- 4) Before Eid Salaah and after Eid Salaah inside the Masjid
- 5) When there is very little time left for the Fardh Salaah.
- 6) When there is something that may distract his concentration, such as the presence of food or holding back urine/stool.
- 7) The Salaah of tawaf may also not be performed in these two times (After performing Fajr Salaah until Sunrise, after performing Asr Salaah until 15 Minutes before Sunset)

Note: Regarding offering Nafil Salaah after sunset and before Maghrib Salaah, then it is better not to perform them due to the importance of offering Maghrib early and not delaying it. However when there is time given then it can be performed.

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