

Lesson 51

Topic; **Zakah**

Chapter Four: The Rulings of Zakah

Items liable to Zakah

1. Wheat
2. Barley
3. Dates
4. Raisin
5. Gold
6. Silver
7. Camel
8. Cow
9. Sheep

Criteria for Liability to Zakah

The *nisa b* (threshold)

Zakah becomes obligatory and liable if the zakah-item reaches the limit of the threshold or *nisab*.

The Year

If one owns cow, sheep, camel, gold or silver, for the period of *eleven months*, payment of their zakah becomes obligatory for him from the first of the twelfth month, as a precaution.

Liability for the zakah for Wheat and Barley is determined when they can be physically *called Wheat and Barley*.

The zakah becomes obligatory when the Raisin, as a precaution, becomes *sour grape*, and the zakah becomes liable in the case of *Dates* when they become *yellow or red*, as a precaution

Zakah of the Four Crops

Wheat, Barley, Date, and Raisin

The *nisab* (threshold)

The zakah is not payable for the *four crops* unless their quantity reaches the limit of the threshold – *nisab*, which is the equivalent of *847.207 kg*.

Irrigation

Case: If the crops are irrigated by *rain*, stream, or if they benefit from the moisture of the land, then their zakah is one-tenth (or *10%*).

...and if they were irrigated by *buckets*, [pump] and other similar devices, then their zakah is half of one-tenth, i.e. one-twentieth (or *5%*).

However, if the crops are irrigated by *rain*, stream...and then they are irrigated by *buckets* and suchlike by an equal amount, thus zakah liability is 3 parts out of 40, [which is *7.5%*].

Zakah of the Two Cash Metals: Gold and Silver

nisab of gold

Gold has two *nisab*:

1| Twenty *shar‘i mithqal*, then it is obligatory to pay **one-quarter of one tenth of the amount**.

A *Shar‘i mithqal* is equal to 3.6 g, and a common *mithqal* is equal to 4.8g.

2| Four *shar‘i mithqal*, which is equivalent to three common *mithqal* .

above the main threshold of 15-mithqal every increment of less than three mithqal is not liable to zakah, and every increment that equals three mithqal is added to the total amount and is liable to zakah.

nisab of silver

Silver has two thresholds...

1| 105 common *mithqal*, then it is obligatory to pay one part out of forty (2.5%).

2| 21 *mithqal*. If 21 *mithqal* are added to the first threshold, and the total becomes 126 *mithqal*, it would be obligatory to pay the zakah of the total.

Coins

Gold and silver are liable to zakah if they are in the form of **currency coins**, and even if the coins were defaced.

Gold and silver are liable to zakah if has in one’s possession the amount of *nisab* or threshold [of these metals] for a period of eleven months.

Zakah of the Three Cattle

Cow, Camel, Sheep

The criteria

The zakah of the three cattle has **two other criteria** in addition to the ones mentioned before.

1| That they are **not from the workers** (used to do certain jobs) throughout the year.

2| That they have **grazed** the field/desert throughout the year.

Nisab of Camel

Camel has **twelve nisab** levels

Nisab of Cows

Cows have two thresholds

1| **Thirty**: one is liable to give one cow that has entered its **second year** as zakah.

2| **Forty**. The zakah for this limit is **a cow** that has entered its **third year**.

Nisab of Sheep

Sheep has **five thresholds**;

1. **40**. The zakah in this case is **one** sheep

2. **121**: **2** sheep

3. **201**: **3** sheep

4: 301: 4 sheep

5: 400 and above. For every 100 sheep, one is given as zakah.

A person who is liable to zakah for one's cattle, if he pays for them using cash, gold or silver, he remains obliged to pay the cattle's zakah every year so long as the cattle's number does not fall below the nisab limit.

Disposal of Zakah

1-2 the poor and the destitute

Case: The poor is the one who does not possess the annual expenses to support himself and his family, and the destitute is worse off than the poor.

3. Collector of Zakah

4. Those whose hearts are to be won

They are:

1. Those **disbelievers** who are given from the Zakah to encourage them to be favorably inclined towards Islam or help the Muslims in war.

2. The **Muslims** who are of weak faith and belief.

5. For buying slaves and setting them free

6. **Debtors** who are unable to pay their debts

7. In the Cause of Allah

8. The Stranded Traveler

If the poor individual would feel embarrassed to accept Zakah, it would be mostahab to give it to him as a gift, but it is mandatory to intend it as Zakah.

Criteria of those qualifying for Zakah

1. It is mandatory for the receiver of the Zakah to be **Ithna Ashari** [or believer in the authority of the 12 Imams appointed by the Prophet].

2. It is permissible to give the Zakah to the **poor individual** who engages in begging.

3. It is not permissible [for a person who pays the Zakah] to give his own **dependents** [whose expenses are his responsibility] from his Zakah.

4. It is not permissible for a **Sayyid** to receive the Zakah **from a non-Sayyid**.