



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## Lesson 35

### The Timings of Prayers

#### Time of Zuhr Prayer

حُفِظُوا عَلَى الصَّلَوَاتِ وَالصَّلَاةِ الْوُسْطَى

*Be watchful of your prayers, and [especially] the middle prayer*  
(Baqarah, 238)

- The time for Zuhr and Asr prayer begins with Zawal (دلوک الشمس) – midday (actual noon)
- In order to calculate Zawal, split the time from sunrise to sunset into exact half.
- One can also calculate Zawal by placing an object and carefully looking at the shadow of that object. When the shadow disappears and grows again, it is the time of Zawal.
- If Zawal is at 12:00 pm, the first four minutes are exclusively for Zuhr prayer. If someone prays Asr prayer in that time, his prayer would be invalid.
- The last four minutes before the sunset are exclusively for Asr prayer; if someone prays Zuhr in those minutes, it will be considered invalid.

#### The Time of virtue (waqt al-Fadilah)

- The time of virtue for Zuhr prayer remains until the shadow of an object reaches the size of the object.
- The time of virtue for Asr prayer remains until the shadow of the object becomes twice the object.
- Another opinion regarding the time of virtue is that once the shadow of the object reaches 4/7<sup>th</sup> of its size, the time of virtue for Zuhr prayer has expired.
- As for Asr prayer, the time for virtue expires when the shadow of the object reaches 6/7<sup>th</sup> of its size.



### The Time of Maghrib

- The common opinion of the Shia scholars is that Maghrib prayer does not begin with sunset, instead it begins with Maghrib.
- After the sunset, towards the East, a reddish hue can be witnessed in the horizon. It is called *al-Humra al-Mashriqiyyah* (the eastern redness). When this redness disappears, the time for Maghrib prayer has started.
- The first three minutes after Maghrib are exclusively for Maghrib prayer. Then the common time for Maghrib and Isha begins; and it ends at the exclusive time of Isha, i.e. last four minutes before midnight.
- The legal midnight can be calculated by splitting the time from sunset to Fajr into half.
- If someone due to a genuine excuse could not offer Isha prayer before midnight, the time for Maghrib and Isha extends for him till Fajr.
- The time of virtue for Maghrib prayer expires upon the disappearing of western redness from the sky.
- The time of virtue for Isha prayer expires after one-third of the night has passed.