

The
History of al-Ṭabarī

VOLUME VI

Muḥammad at Mecca



TRANSLATED AND ANNOTATED BY
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Contents



Preface / v

Translator's Foreword / xi

The Lineage of the Messenger of God / I

'Abdallāh (His Father) / 1

'Abd al-Muṭṭalib (His Grandfather) / 9

Hāshim / 16

'Abd Manāf / 18

Qusayy / 19

Kilāb / 26

Murrah / 26

Ka'b / 27

Lu'ayy / 27

Ghālib / 28

Fihir / 28

Mālik / 29

Al-Nadr / 31

Kinānah / 32

Khuzaymah / 32

Mudrikah / 32

Ilyās / 33

Muḍar / 34

Nizār / 36

Ma'add / 36

'Adnān / 37

'Adnān's Descent from Ishmael, Abraham, and Adam / 38

*The Account of the Messenger of God
and His Life / 44*

The Messenger of God Is Recognized by the
Monk Bahīrā / 44

The Messenger of God Is Protected by God from
Participating in Pagan Practices / 46

The Prophet's Marriage to Khadijah / 47

Events of the Life of the Messenger of God / 51

The Rebuilding of the Ka'bah / 51

History of the Ka'bah / 51

The Rebuilding of the Ka'bah (Continued) / 56

The Beginning of the Prophetic Mission / 60

The Day and the Month on Which the Messenger of God
Became a Prophet, and the Accounts Concerning This / 62

First Revelation of the Qur'ān / 62

Signs of the Approach of Prophethood / 63

Predictions of the Appearance of the Prophet / 64

Proofs of Prophethood / 66

The Manner in Which the Qur'ān Was First Revealed / 67

Khadijah the First to Believe in the Messenger of God / 76

The First Rituals of Islam Are Prescribed / 77

The Prophet Ascends to the Seventh Heaven / 78

The First Male to Believe in the Messenger of God / 80

*Events of the Life of the Messenger of
God (Continued) / 88*

The Messenger of God Begins to Preach Openly / 88

Other Events up to the Hijrah / 93

Quraysh Begin to Oppose the Messenger of God / 93

- The Emigration to Abyssinia / 98
 Quraysh Show Increased Hostility to the
 Messenger of God / 101
 Hamzah Accepts Islam / 103
 'Abdallāh b. Mas'ūd Recites the Qur'ān
 Aloud to Quraysh / 104
 Quraysh Boycott the Banū Hāshim and
 the Banū al-Muṭṭalib / 105
 Quraysh Attempt to Induce the Messenger of God
 to Cease His Attacks on Their Gods / 106
 Satan Casts a False Revelation on the Messenger
 of God's Tongue / 107
 The Boycott Is Repealed / 112
 The Messenger of God Is Subjected to Further Insults / 114
 The Deaths of Abū Tālib and Khadijah / 115
 The Messenger of God Goes to al-Ṭā'if / 115
 The Messenger of God Returns to Mecca / 117
 The Messenger of God Preaches to the Arab Tribes / 120
 The First Madīnans Said to Have Accepted Islam / 122
 The First Deputation from al-Madīnah / 124
 The First Pledge of al-'Aqabah / 126
 Islam Begins to Spread in al-Madīnah / 127
 The Second Pledge of al-'Aqabah / 130
 The Messenger of God Commands the
 Muslims to Emigrate to al-Madīnah / 139
 The Quraysh Plot to Kill the Messenger of God / 140
 The Messenger of God Escapes from the Attempt
 to Kill Him / 142
 The Messenger of God Emigrates to al-Madīnah / 145
 The Messenger of God Arrives in al-Madīnah / 150

*The Beginning of the Prophetic
 Mission (Continued) / 153*

The Institution of the Islamic Calendar / 157

- The Date of the Institution of the Islamic Era / 157
 Reports on This Subject / 157

Summary of Meccan Chronology / 162

Abbreviations / 163

Bibliography of Cited Works / 165

Index / 167



Summary of Meccan Chronology



Abū Ja'far (al-Ṭabarī): The Messenger of God received his call to prophethood at the age of forty. According to al-Sha'ibī, Isrāfīl was associated with the Messenger of God's prophethood, for three years, this being before he was commanded to call people to Islam and to proclaim it openly. We have already quoted the narratives and stories to this effect. After three years, Gabriel was associated with his prophethood, and he commanded him to summon people openly to God. He did this for ten years while resident in Mecca, and then emigrated to al-Madīnah in Rabī' I fourteen years after becoming a prophet. He left Mecca for al-Madīnah on a Monday and arrived in al-Madīnah on Monday the twelfth of Rabī' I (September 24, 624).

Ibrāhīm b. Sa'īd al-Jawharī—Mūsā b. Dāwūd—Ibn Lahī'ah—Khālid b. Abī 'Imrān—Ḥanash al-Ṣan'ānī—Ibn 'Abbās: The Prophet was born on a Monday, became a prophet on a Monday, lifted the (Black) Stone on a Monday, left Mecca to emigrate to al-Madīnah on a Monday, arrived in al-Madīnah on a Monday, and passed away on a Monday.

Ibn Ḥumayd—Salamah—Ibn Ishāq—al-Zuhri: The Messenger of God arrived in al-Madīnah on Monday, the twelfth of Rabī' I.

Abū Ja'far (al-Ṭabarī): If the matter of the Muslim chronology is as I have described it, then although it is based on the emigration it actually begins two months and twelve days before the Prophet's arrival in al-Madīnah. This is because the year begins in al-Muḥarram, and the Prophet arrived in al-Madīnah after this period of time had elapsed; the era did not begin with the time of his arrival but with the beginning of that year.