

1.9 How Often Should I Read The Qur'an?

Main Topics Covered

- **Introduction** (0:00 to 1:20)
- **How Often Should I read The Quran Cover to Cover** (1:20 to 5:10)
- **Can a non-Muslim read the Quran?** (5:10 to 6:52)
- **Focus on Quality** (6:52 to 7:40)
- **Memorize with Understanding** (7:40 to 8:36)
- **The Arabic Language of the Quran** (8:36 to 9:15)
- **Not Just a Ritual** (9:15 to 10:00)

This is a module in which we will talk about a particular question that has to do with “How often can I read the Quran?”

Actually, if you read the Quran all the time, day and night, then it's not enough to really give the Quran its due respect and due place. You should know that reading is not just a recitation, but also the application.

Therefore, how often should I refer to the Quran?

All the time.

So how often should I read the Quran?

All the time, whether you read it in terms of recitation (*tilawah*) which is to bring one verse after the other); or (*tarteel*) which is to take a bunch of verses and read and reflect upon; or (*qira'ah*) which is to read. Or to actually apply. That is another way of reading the Quran.

How Often Can Read the Quran Cover to Cover?

The Quran is divided into thirty different sections; therefore, it is recommended that you read the Quran through those in a month.

That is one of the answers that Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) gave to the companions, to read over a month. The division through thirty parts (juz') would allow you to read over a month.

The companions had a more intense reading of the Quran. A number of them were readers and were scholars of the Quran; they read it over seven days. If you divide Quran into seven equal parts, they are summarized by the beginnings of the chapter that is called (fa-mi- bi-sha-w-q), meaning my tongue is hoping to read:

Fa': Is the Fatihah chapter

Ma: Is the Ma'idah chapter

Ya': I Yunus chapter

Ba': Is Bani Israel (chapter Al Isra')

Shin: Is Shu'ara' chapter

Waw: Is Wal Saffat chapter

Q: Is Qaf chapter

Therefore, these seven divisions are 3 surahs, then 5 surahs, then 7 surahs, then 9 surahs, then 11, then 13, then from Surah Qaf to the end. They are equally portioned parts of the Quran interestingly. This way of reading the Quran is very intense. It takes between an hour fifteen and three hours. The important thing is to understand, not just simply say very quickly.

Some people could read the Quran very quickly in a few hours, but this is not the point. The point is if you're hafidh (memorizer) of Quran, you revise what you memorize; and if you're somebody who's trying to learn from the Quran is to read.

You could read the Quran also in three days, if you are in isolation in the masjid, reading ten juz' every day.

Uthman has been narrated that he read the Quran in one night. So he stands from the beginning to the end. And Uthman is a companion who was very interested in the compilation of the Quran in one book between two covers. It's the highlight of his leadership of Muslims, as we will discuss in another module. He would read the Quran in one night in a number of hours, putting it in the order that they put eventually when they compiled the Quran.

Can a Non-Muslim Read the Quran?

It's very important though to know that everybody should read the Quran. We have a myth in some Islamic circles that a non-Muslim can't touch or read the Quran; and that's against the very message of the Quran.

Allah is saying in many places in the Quran, "O People! O People of the Book...", calling all people to read the Quran and reflect. How can they reflect if they can't touch the book?

They should read the Quran respectfully, they should not do anything disrespectful to the Quran; then, if they do, then we don't allow them to disrespect the Holy book of the Quran.

They should be able to read the book and not to give them additional conditions and complications that some Muslims really misunderstand in terms of reading the Quran.

Reading the Quran is open for everybody: Muslim, or non-Muslim, in Arabic or in any other language to really ponder upon that book and the wisdom in it, and how it transforms you

into a different worldview, a different understanding of the universe, and a different feeling and emotion.

Allah in His book has asked us to reflect upon the Quran and said that people who don't reflect upon it are people who have locks on their hearts.

Focus on Quality

As we talked in the previous module, it's very important that it's not just how often you read, but it's for your heart to be open to learn from that book. Because reading is actually a learning journey, and a learning journey that never ends.

Every time you read a verse, even if you memorize it and you read it a thousand times, every time you read and you reflect upon it, you will have a different thought and a different lesson to learn.

So, it's not 'how often' as much as how we should read, what is the quality of our reading. Yet, when you read it often and you start to memorize it, you have a different kind of blessing in your life.

Memorize with Understanding

This would be a recommendation for those who can, and perhaps when you're younger, your memory could actually comprehend and you have more time perhaps and less responsibilities in the worldly sense, to memorize the Quran with an understanding.

Don't memorize as you read a language that you don't understand. The book is not sounds, and doesn't bring blessings with the sounds only, and doesn't relieve your parents from punishment if you memorize just because you memorize the sounds. No. That's not the true understanding.

Your parents are blessed, your life is blessed when you memorize the Quran, understanding what you read, even a basic understanding. You don't have to be a faqih, or a scholar in the Quran, but you have to understand what you read at least in a basic sense.

The Arabic Language of the Quran

The Quranic Arabic is very simplified Arabic. It made a revolution in the Arabic language when it came to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). And Arabs now when they speak Arabic, they hardly use any words but the words of the Quran. Sometimes they use other words from the rich vocabulary of the Arabic language.

But the Arabic of the Quran revolutionized the Arabic language to the extent that you really if you write, read or speak Arabic at any length, you will have to use mostly the vocab of that book.

Not Just a Ritual

That's what reading the Quran repeatedly does to your life and to a society and to a civilization in which that book is at the foundation. This is not just a ritual (ibadah); this is founding a new way of life, founding a way of connecting with Allah and building life on earth in a particular way. And the more often we read and respond to the orders, actions, and examples that we see in the Quran, the more blessed we are, and the more reformed and better our life would be.

We ask Allah to forgive us and guide us.