

His family ﷺ

A man with wives the Qur'an calls mothers of the believers, seven children of whom he buried six, and a reputation at home that was the same as his reputation outside it.



Mothers of the believers

النَّبِيُّ أَوْلَىٰ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ مِنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ ۖ وَأَزْوَاجُهُ أُمَّهَاتُهُمْ

“The Prophet is more worthy of the believers than themselves, and his wives are their mothers.” The title is given in the Book, not by custom.

Qur'an 33:6

Khadijah, first

Jibril came and said: Khadijah is coming to you with a dish; greet her from her Lord and from me, and give her the good news of a house of qasab in Paradise, with no noise and no fatigue in it.

Sahih al-Bukhari 3820

Still spoken of

‘A’ishah: I was never jealous of any woman as I was of Khadijah, because he used to mention her so often — and he married me three years after her death.

Sahih al-Bukhari 3817

The choice he offered

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ قُلْ لِّأَزْوَاجِكَ إِن كُنتن تَرِدْنَ الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا وَزِينَتَهَا
فَتَعَالَيْن أْمَتِعَكُنَّ وَأَسْرِحْكِ سَرَاحًا جَمِيلًا

“O Prophet, say to your wives: if you desire the life of this world and its adornment, then come, I will give you a provision and release you with a gracious release.”

Qur'an 33:28

Asked who he loved most

‘Amr b. al-‘As, sent to command an army, asked him who was dearest to him. “‘A’ishah.” And among the men? “Her father.” Then ‘Umar, then he named others.

Sahih al-Bukhari 3662

Fatimah

فَاطِمَةُ بَضْعَةٌ مِنِّي، فَمَنْ أَغْضَبَهَا أَغْضَبَنِي

“Fatimah is a part of me; whoever angers her has angered me.” Said publicly, from the pulpit of a dispute.

Sahih al-Bukhari 3714

The children

Al-Qasim, ‘Abdullah, Zaynab, Ruqayyah, Umm Kulthum and Fatimah by Khadijah, and Ibrahim by Mariyah — as the standard sirah lists give them. Only Fatimah outlived him.

The standard sirah lists · Ibn Hisham; Ibn Sa’d

Burying Ibrahim

إِنَّ الْعَيْنَ تَدْمَعُ، وَالْقَلْبَ يَحْزَنُ، وَلَا نَقُولُ إِلَّا مَا يَرْضَى رَبُّنَا،
وَأَنَا بِفِرَاقِكَ يَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ لَحْزُونُونَ

Holding his dying son he wept. “The eye sheds tears and the heart grieves, but we say nothing except what pleases our Lord. O Ibrahim, we are grieved by your parting.”

Sahih al-Bukhari 1303

What he was like at home

خَيْرُكُمْ خَيْرُكُمْ لِأَهْلِهِ وَأَنَا خَيْرُكُمْ لِأَهْلِي

“The best of you is the best to his family, and I am the best of you to my family.” ‘A’ishah, asked what he did in the house, said he busied himself serving his family until the prayer was called.

Sunan at-Tirmidhi 3895 · sahih · Sahih al-Bukhari 676