

The life of the Prophet ﷺ — the timeline

Forty years before the first revelation, thirteen in Makkah, ten in Madinah — the anchors the hadith itself supplies, with the standard dates.



★ Born in Makkah

Born in the Year of the Elephant, into Banu Hashim of Quraysh. His father had died before his birth, his mother while he was still a child.

the standard sirah chronology · Ibn Hisham; at-Tabari

★ Revelation at forty

“He was inspired divinely at the age of forty. Then he stayed in Makkah thirteen years, and then was ordered to migrate.”

Sahih al-Bukhari 3851 · 3902

★ The cave of Hira’

أَقْرَأُ بِأَسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ

‘A’ishah: it began with true dreams, then seclusion in Hira’, then the angel — “Read, in the name of your Lord who created.”

Sahih al-Bukhari 3 · Qur’an 96:1

★ Quietly, then openly

A private calling first, then the public summons; then the boycott, the loss of Khadijah and Abu Talib, and the hardest Makkan years.

the standard sirah chronology · Ibn Hisham; at-Tabari

★ The Hijra · 1 AH

إِذْ هُمَا فِي الْغَارِ إِذْ يَقُولُ لِصَاحِبِهِ لَا تَحْزَنْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَنَا

“When the two of them were in the cave, and he said to his companion: do not grieve; indeed Allah is with us.” Abu Bakr was the companion.

Qur’an 9:40 · Sahih al-Bukhari 3653

★ Badr, Uhud, the Trench

The turning points of the Madinan decade, in order: Badr in 2 AH, Uhud in 3 AH, and the Trench — al-Khandaq — in 5 AH.

Sahih al-Bukhari, Kitab al-Maghazi · the standard sirah chronology · Ibn Hisham; at-Tabari

★ Hdaybiyyah · 6 AH

A truce agreed short of Makkah, on terms his Companions found hard to accept, which opened the two years that followed.

Sahih al-Bukhari 2731 · the standard sirah chronology · Ibn Hisham; at-Tabari

★ The Conquest · 8 AH

He entered Makkah in the Year of the Conquest and went to the Ka’bah; Tabuk followed in 9 AH, the last of the great expeditions.

Sahih al-Bukhari 4280 · 4400

★ Farewell Hajj, then 11 AH

The Farewell Hajj in 10 AH; he died in Madinah at sixty-three — ten years there, after thirteen in Makkah.

Sahih al-Bukhari 3902 · 3903 · 3536