

The major expeditions

The Qur'an names Badr and Hunayn and describes Uhud, the Trench and al-Hudaybiyyah. The years and months come from the sirah works, and are labelled here as such.



★ Nineteen in all

Zayd ibn al-Arqam was asked how many expeditions the Prophet ﷺ undertook. He said: nineteen — and that he himself took part in seventeen of them.

Sahih al-Bukhari 3949 • 4471

★ Badr

وَلَقَدْ نَصَرَكُمُ اللَّهُ بِبَدْرٍ وَأَنْتُمْ أَذِلَّةٌ

“Allah gave you victory at Badr while you were weak.” The sirah works place it in Ramadan of the second year after the Hijra.

Qur'an 3:123 • date: sirah chronology

★ Uhud

وَلَقَدْ صَدَقَكُمُ اللَّهُ وَعْدَهُ إِذْ تَحُسُّونَهُم بِإِذْنِهِ

“Allah fulfilled His promise to you when you were overcoming them” — until they faltered and disputed. The sirah works place it in the third year.

Qur'an 3:152 • date: sirah chronology

★ Al-Khandaq

أَذْكُرُوا نِعْمَةَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ جَاءَتْكُمْ جُنُودٌ فَأَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ رِيحًا وَجُنُودًا لَمْ تَرَوْهَا

“Remember Allah's favour upon you when armies came against you, and We sent upon them a wind and armies you did not see.” The sirah works: the fifth year.

Qur'an 33:9 • date: sirah chronology

★ Al-Hudaybiyyah

إِنَّا فَتَحْنَا لَكَ فَتْحًا مُبِينًا

“Indeed We have given you a clear victory” — of a treaty, not a battle. The sirah works place it in the sixth year.

Qur'an 48:1 • date: sirah chronology

★ Khaybar

The expedition against the fortresses of Khaybar, north of Madinah. The sirah and maghazi works place it in the seventh year, after al-Hudaybiyyah.

Standard sirah chronology • Ibn Hisham • Ibn Sa'd • at-Tabari

★ The conquest of Makkah

إِذَا جَاءَ نَصْرُ اللَّهِ وَالْفَتْحُ

“When the help of Allah comes, and the victory.” The sirah works place the entry into Makkah in Ramadan of the eighth year.

Qur'an 110:1 • date: sirah chronology

★ Hunayn

لَقَدْ نَصَرَكُمُ اللَّهُ فِي مَوَاطِنَ كَثِيرَةٍ وَيَوْمَ حُنَيْنٍ

“Allah gave you victory in many places, and on the day of Hunayn, when your great numbers pleased you and availed you nothing.” The sirah works: the eighth year.

Qur'an 9:25 • date: sirah chronology

★ Tabuk

لَقَدْ تَابَ اللَّهُ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ وَالْمُهَاجِرِينَ وَالْأَنْصَارِ الَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوهُ فِي سَاعَةِ الْعُسْرَةِ

“Allah turned in mercy to the Prophet, the Muhajirun and the Ansar, who followed him in the hour of hardship.” The sirah works: the ninth year.

Qur'an 9:117 • date: sirah chronology