

The Hijra

The Qur'an records the plot, the cave and the two travellers. The route, the dates and the arrival belong to the sirah works, and are given here as such.



The plot

وَإِذْ يَمْكُرُ بِكَ الَّذِينَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لِيُثْبِتُوكَ أَوْ يَقْتُلُوكَ أَوْ يُخْرِجُوكَ

“And when those who disbelieved plotted against you, to restrain you, or kill you, or drive you out.” The departure was not a choice of convenience.

Qur'an 8:30



The second of two

ثَانِي اثْنَيْنِ إِذْ هُمَا فِي الْغَارِ

“...the second of two, when they were both in the cave.” The Qur'an names no one, but the Companions understood Abu Bakr.

Qur'an 9:40



Do not grieve

إِذْ يَقُولُ لِصَاحِبِهِ لَا تَحْزَنْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَنَا

“...when he said to his companion: do not grieve, Allah is with us.” Then Allah sent down His tranquillity upon him.

Qur'an 9:40



Two, and Allah the third

مَا ظَنُّكَ يَا أَبَا بَكْرٍ بِاثْنَيْنِ اللَّهُ ثَالِثُهُمَا

Abu Bakr saw feet at the cave mouth. “What do you think of two, Abu Bakr, when Allah is the third of them?”

Sahih al-Bukhari 3653 • 3922



How it was arranged

‘A’ishah’s account: Abu Bakr had prepared mounts, a non-Muslim guide was hired for the road, and Asma’ and ‘Abdullah carried food and news to the cave.

Sahih al-Bukhari 3905



The promise to the emigrant

وَمَنْ يُهَاجِرْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ يَجِدْ فِي الْأَرْضِ مُرْغَمًا كَثِيرًا وَسَعَةً

“Whoever emigrates in the cause of Allah will find many a refuge and abundance.” And whoever dies on the way, his reward is with Allah.

Qur'an 4:100



Those who went, those who hosted

وَالسَّابِقُونَ الْأَوَّلُونَ مِنَ الْمُهَاجِرِينَ وَالْأَنْصَارِ وَالَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ

“The first forerunners among the Muhajirun and the Ansar, and those who followed them in goodness — Allah is pleased with them, and they with Him.”

Qur'an 9:100



The calendar starts here

مَا عُدُّوا مِنْ مَبْعَثِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَلَا مِنْ وَفَاتِهِ، مَا عُدُّوا إِلَّا مِنْ مَقْدَمِهِ

Sahl ibn Sa’d: “They did not count from his being sent, nor from his death — they counted only from his arrival at Madinah.”

Sahih al-Bukhari 3934



When, and what came next

The sirah works place the departure in the thirteenth year of prophethood, in Rabi‘ al-Awwal, with Quba and then the masjid in Madinah as the first works on arrival.

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