

# **Tafseer: Surah Yusuf**

Part 1

# Makki-Madani Classifications

Makki	Maddani
Before the Hijrah.	After the Hijrah.
Strong/harsh words.	Gentle style of address.
Shorter <i>ayyat</i> .	Longer <i>ayaat</i> .
Powerful impact, arguments and proofs.	Mention of rulings without proofs and reasoning.
Focus on <i>Tawheed</i> .	Detailed rulings concerning acts of worship and transaction.
Focus on stories of previous prophets.	Themes concerning Jews, Christians and <i>munafiqeen</i> .

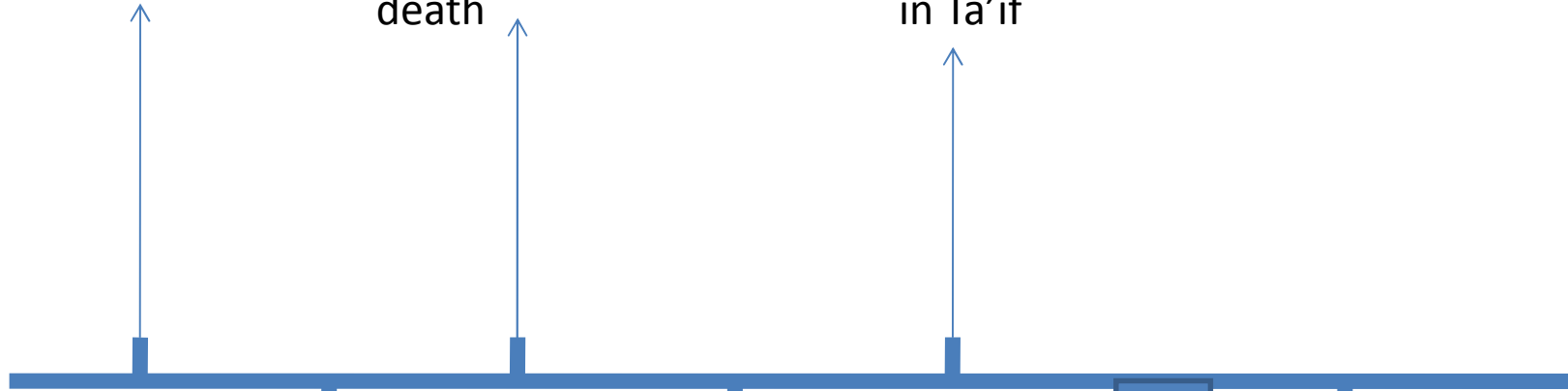
# Reasons for revelation

1. Test	2. Best of stories
An attempt to discredit the Prophet (peace be upon him) when the Jews asked about the lineage of Ibrahim.	Al Hakim reportes that Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas (may Allah be pleased with him) reported:  Companions requested from the Prophet (peace be upon him): "Please relate to us stories."
Another version: the Jews told the <i>mushrikeen</i> to question the Prophet (peace be upon him) about Yusuf and how the family of Yaqub moved from Palestine to Egypt.	In another narration by Sa'eed ibn Jubair (may Allah be pleased with him):  The Companions asked the Prophet (peace be upon him): "Please remind us."

1. Prophethood

3. Abu Talib's death

5. Open enmity in Ta'if



4. Khadija dies

6. Migration to Madinah

2. Muslims were boycotted in *Shi'b Abi Taalib*

Surah Yusuf was revealed at a difficult time for the Muslims

# Scholars disagree concerning the “Basmallah”

**View 1)** It is an *ayah* from amongst the *ayaat* of the Qur’an

**View 2)** It is not an *ayah* from the Qur’an.

**View 3)** It is an *ayah* only at the beginning of al-Fatihah. In another places it is used to separate suras.

**View 4)** According to some *qira’aat* it is an *ayah*, it is not according to others.

**View 5)** It is an independent *ayah* but not part of the surah.

# Theoretical Evidence Supporting the Fifth View

- The scholars who hold this view state that the writing of the Basmallah in the Qur'aan with the Qur'anic font (*ar-rasm al-Uthmaani*) is evidence that it is a part of the Qur'an.
- Furthermore the *Basmallah* has been placed independently from the *surahs* it precedes, which proves that it is an entity in its own right and not part of the *surahs*.

# The Disjointed Letters

ا ل ر

- They are from the *mutashabihaat* of the Qur'an, their meaning is only known to Allah.
- They serve the purpose of oaths in the Qur'an.
- They are the names of Allah.
- They stand for specific meanings.
  - A couplet of Arabic poetry mentioned by Ibn-Farris (d. 395) illustrates this:
    - “*Qulnaa laha qifee faqalat qaaf.*”
    - “We said to her stop and she said *qaaf*” [short for “*waqaftu*”].
- They are references to the names of suras.
- They serve as a reference to the other half of the Arabic alphabet.

Implies  
something far



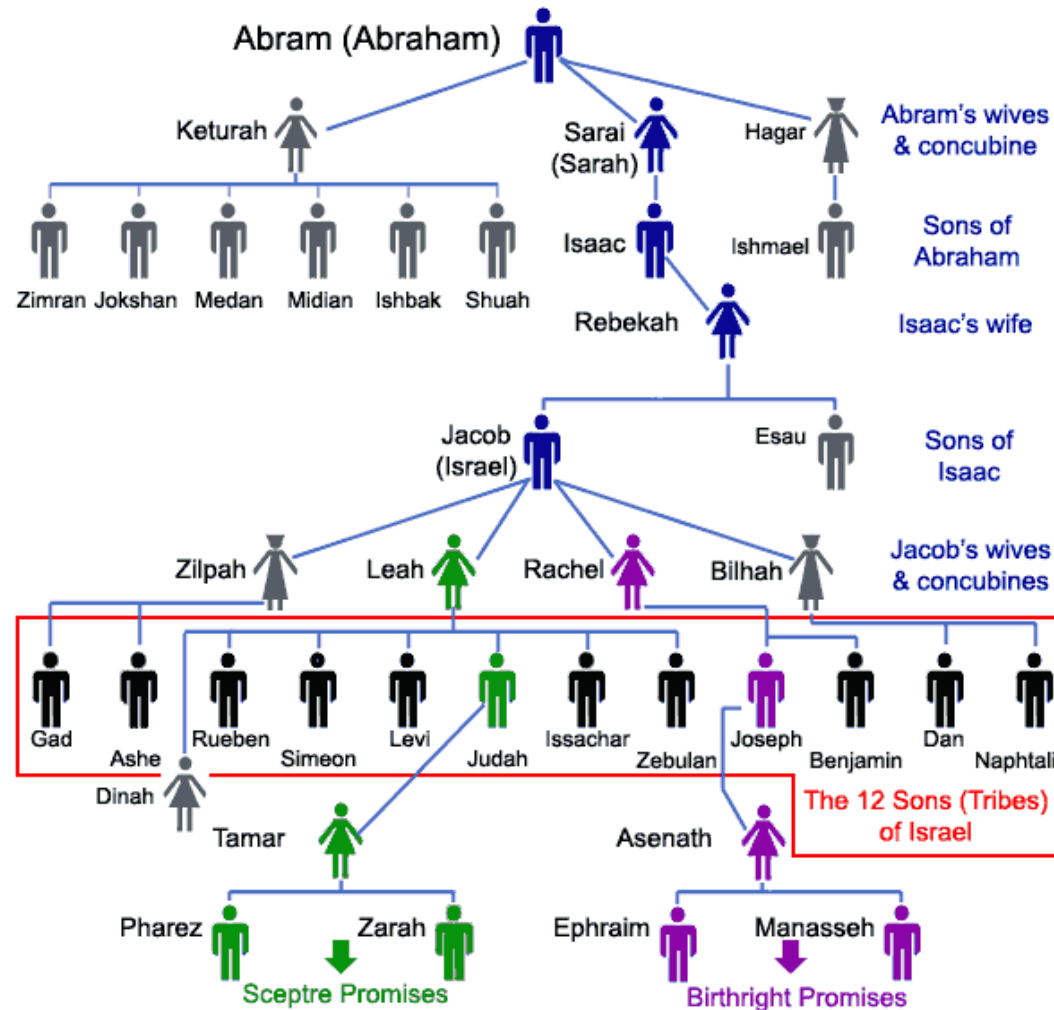
تِلْكَ آيَاتُ الْكِتَابِ الْمُبِينِ

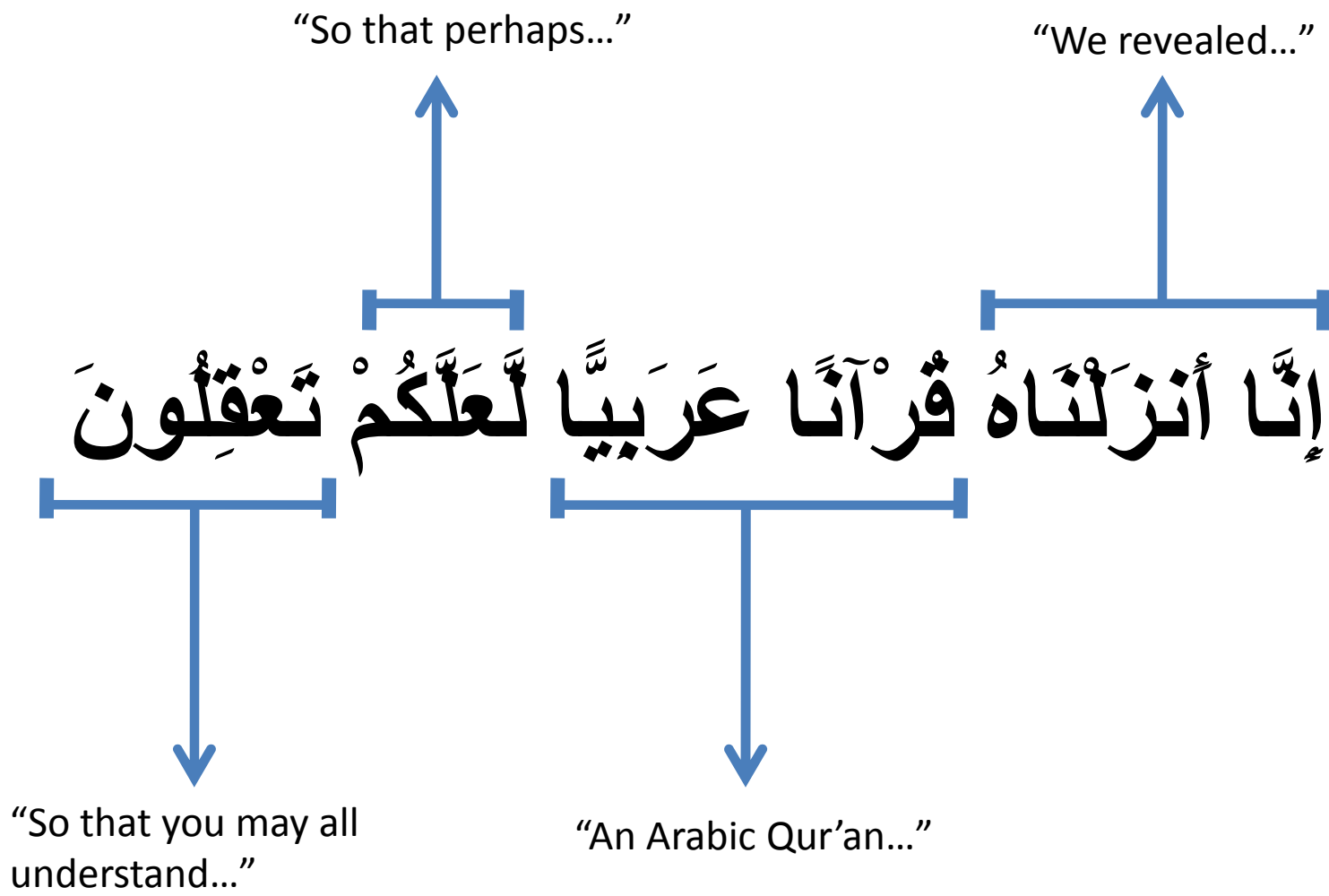


“Outright” or  
“clear.”



# The Genealogy of Yusuf





# An Arabic Qur'an

- **Translations:** Translations of the Qur'an into other than the Arabic languages are not termed al-Qur'an.
- **Tafseers:** An explanation of the Qur'an in the Arabic language is not termed al-Qur'an.
- **Fiqh:** The Islamic legislative rulings that are specific to the Qur'an do not apply to translations and explanations of the Qur'an.

**Are there any non-Arabic words in  
the Qur'an?**

# Non-Arabic in the Qur'an

- **Scholars have unanimously agreed:** That there are no non-Arabic sentences in the Qur'an.
  - إبراهيم
  - يعقوب
  - يوسف
- **Regarding other words, there are 3 views:**
  - There are no foreign words.
  - There are foreign words.
  - There are foreign words but they have become 'Arabized.'

# Meaning of the Names

<p><u>אברהם</u> “Father of many...”</p>	<p>إبراهيم</p>
<p><u>يوسف</u> “He will add...”</p>	<p>يوسف</p>
<p><u>يعقوب</u> “Holder of the heel...” “May God protect...”</p>	<p>يعقوب</p>

# Who is Yusuf?

- Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that the Prophet (peace be upon him) was asked:
  - “Who is the most honourable of people?” He replied, “the most honourable is the one with the most taqwa.” The questioner said, “I am not asking about that,” so the Prophet said, “The most honoured is Yusuf , who was a prophet, son of a prophet, son of a prophet, son of Khaleel-Allah.” [Bukhari & Muslim]

From the root “Khassa”.  
Meaning to trace  
footsteps.

نَحْنُ نَقُصُّ عَلَيْكَ أَحْسَنَ الْقَصَصِ بِمَا أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ

We have  
revealed to you.



**What makes a good story?**

i.e. before the  
revelation...

وَإِنْ كُنْتُمْ مِنْ قَبْلِهِ لَمَنِ الْعَافِلِينَ

“Intellectually  
unaware...”

**Prophets known to the Arabs:**

1. Ibrahim
2. Shu'ayb
3. Hud
4. Saleh
5. Isma'eel
6. Nuh

“My dear  
father...”

إِذْ قَالَ يُوسُفُ لِأَبِيهِ يَا أَبَتِ إِنِّي رَأَيْتُ أَحَدَ عَشَرَ  
كَوْكَبًا وَالشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ رَأَيْتُهُمْ لِي سَاجِدِينَ

Hinted he  
understood

- Repeating: Emphasises he stopped.
- Shows shock in conveying dream

Star but specific  
type...

# Showing Kindness to Parents

- “And We have enjoined on man to be dutiful and kind to his parents” [*al-Ahqaaf 46:15*]
- “And We have enjoined on man to be dutiful and kind to his parents” [*al-‘Ankaboot 29:8*]
- “But behave with them in the world kindly” [*Luqmaan 31:15*]

“My dear  
father...”

إِذْ قَالَ يُوسُفُ لِأَبِيهِ يَا أَبَتِ إِنِّي رَأَيْتُ أَحَدَ عَشَرَ  
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