



## Synopsis of Friday Sermon

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

### Synopsis of Friday Sermon

## 2025: A Year of Hope and Renewal for Islam

يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يُطْفِئُوا نُورَ اللَّهِ بِأَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَيَأْبَى اللَّهُ إِلَّا أَنْ يُتِمَّ نُورَهُ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْكَافِرُونَ ﴿٩٣﴾

*“They wish to extinguish Allah’s light with their mouths, but Allah will only allow His light to be perfected, even to the dismay of the disbelievers.” [al-Tawbah, 9:32]*

The year 2025 dawns, and the Muslim Ummah faces continued turmoil. The ongoing Gaza war, the crises in Syria, Sudan, Yemen, Libya, Iraq, and Somalia paint a bleak picture, often leaving one with a sense of despair and hopelessness. Such feelings are natural, given the scale of oppression and suffering, but as Muslims, we are reminded to never lose hope and to place our trust in Allah’s promises and miracles. Despite the challenges, 2025 brings with it more good news than bad news for the Ummah and hope for a brighter future and renewal of strength.

This year marks not just the beginning of a new calendar year but also the end of the first quarter of the third millennium. The third millennium was predicted by many Islamic scholars, including the late Sheikh Yusuf Al-Qaradawi (RA), to be the millennium of Islam.

The Islamic Awakening, which began in the late 20th century, in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, was seen as a revival of Islamic identity, thought, and practice. However, the West, led by the United States, sought to crush this awakening through their so-called “War on Terror,” which was, in reality, a “War on Islam.”

In the aftermath of the tragic events of 9/11, then President George W. Bush openly declared, “This crusade, this war on terrorism, is going to take a while.” The Qur’an foretells such enmity, stating, *“Hatred has already appeared from their mouths, but what their hearts conceal is far worse. We have made Our revelations clear to you, if only you understood.”* [Aal ‘Imran, 3:118]

While it would have been politically incorrect to openly declare a war on Islam, the term “Terror” was used as a cover. This campaign against Muslim-majority countries was not just a response to terrorism but part of a broader agenda. General Wesley Clark, a former NATO commander, revealed that after 9/11, the U.S. government devised a five-year plan to attack seven Muslim-majority countries: Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Iran, Somalia, and Sudan.

Yet, as history has shown, these plans failed. The United States withdrew from Afghanistan after a 20-year war in disgrace, left Iraq defeated, and failed to follow through on their ambitions to control Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Iran, Somalia, and Sudan. Allah (SWT) reminds us, *“They plan, and Allah plans. And Allah is the best of planners.”* [Aal ‘Imran, 3:54]

Despite their attempts to suppress Islam, Allah (SWT) has promised the continuation and eventual triumph of this Ummah. As believers, we should feel reassured knowing that this Ummah will endure until the end of time. The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said in a lengthy hadith describing the coming of the Dajjal, “I am the last of the prophets, and you are the last of the nations.”

This good news affirms that no nation will ever replace the Ummah of Muhammad (SAW). While other nations and civilizations have risen and fallen, this Ummah will persist until the Day of Judgment. Such resilience and continuity are part of Allah’s divine decree and plan.

In 2025, let us remember that the trials we face are temporary, and the ultimate victory belongs to Islam. Let us place our trust in Allah’s promises and remain steadfast in faith, striving to fulfill our duties as Muslims. Every hardship carries with it an opportunity for growth, renewal, and the eventual triumph of truth over falsehood.

In another hadith narrated by Abu Hurairah, the Prophet (SAW) said, “We who are last shall be first on the day of resurrection and we shall be the first to enter Paradise ...” (Muslim)

Rejoice in 2025 and beyond! You are part of this blessed Ummah, and, in sha Allah, you will be among the first to take a stand on the Day of Judgment and enter Paradise.

The challenges we face, from Palestine to Syria, Sudan, Yemen, and beyond, should not lead us to despair. Rather, they are a sign that Allah’s plan is unfolding, and His promises to this Ummah remain true.

This Ummah is destined for honor and victory, as long as we hold firm to taqwa (God-consciousness) and righteous deeds. Allah

(SWT) reminds us in the Qur'an, *"To Allah belongs the honor, and to His Messenger, and to the believers."* [Al-Munafiqun, 63:8]

We must always feel dignified and confident as Muslims. Shame and insecurity are not traits of this noble Ummah. Allah (SWT) has declared this Ummah as the best of nations, *"You are the best Ummah raised for humanity, you enjoin the good, forbid the wrong (evil), and believe in Allah. Had the People of the Book believed, it would have been better for them. Some of them have believed, but most are rebellious."* [Aal 'Imran, 3:110]

Our trials may seem overwhelming, but they serve a greater purpose. Despite the vilification of Islam post-9/11 and the so-called "War on Terror," which many recognize as a "War on Islam," Islam continues to spread. Consider this, how many non-Muslims embraced Islam after 9/11 without any direct effort from Muslims? How many people have embraced Islam since the Gaza crisis of October 2023? These events that appear as hardships to us are, in fact, signs of Allah's divine plan.

The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) gave us glad tidings. According to Tamim al-Dari (RAA), the Prophet (SAW) said, "This matter (Islam) will reach wherever the night and day reach. Allah will not leave a house made of mud or hair (i.e., dwellings of settled people and nomads), except that He will cause this religion to enter it, bringing honor to the honorable (those who accept it) and humiliation to the disgraceful (those who reject it)." (Musnad Ahmad)

Another narration from Miqdad ibn Al-Aswad (RAA) says: "There will not remain on the surface of the earth a single house made of brick or a camel's hair tent except that Allah will cause the word of Islam to enter it, with the honor of an honorable person or the humiliation of a humiliated person. Allah will either honor them by making them of its people or humiliate them, so they submit to it." (Musnad Ahmad).

These Hadiths remind us of Islam's universality and its eventual global acceptance. Every household on earth will come to know the truth of Islam, either through conviction or through the humbling of circumstances. This is not about forced conversion but about the divine promise that Islam's light will reach every corner of the world.

There will always be a group from the ummah who will remain steadfast standing on Haq. Thawban, the servant of the Prophet mentioned what the Prophet (SAW) once said. He (SAW) said, "A group from my Ummah (nation) will continue to remain manifestly upon the truth, victorious over their opponents. They will not be harmed by those who abandon or oppose them, until the command of Allah comes (or he said, until the Hour is established)." (Muslim)

Another narration although classified as ghareeb narrated by Imran bin al-Husain, it is added, "The Prophet (SAW)) said, I looked at this group and found that they are the people of Al-Sham (Greater Syria)." (al-Jorqani)

#### **Explanation:**

**"A group from my Ummah will continue to remain manifestly upon the truth":** This refers to a group of Muslims who will consistently uphold the truth, follow the correct teachings of Islam, and remain steadfast in their faith. They will adhere to the Qur'an and Sunnah despite the trials, challenges, and oppositions they face.

**"Victorious over their opponents":** This includes spiritual, moral, and intellectual victories in addition to material victories. They will remain firm in their faith and continue to spread the message of Islam.

The resilience of the oppressed people in Syria is an example of such group who stood against tyranny. Their steadfastness in faith and their fight for justice exposed the cruelty of the oppressors ensuring that the truth prevails over lies. The Bashar regime whose cruel treatment of Syrians endured for more than 5 decades have perished.

Similarly, the struggle of the Palestinian people against occupation and oppression is a testament to their unwavering faith, moral integrity, and commitment to justice. Even though they face immense suffering, their cause continues to inspire global solidarity, showing that their oppressors have failed to extinguish the truth.

Allah (SWT) confirms, *"They wish to extinguish Allah's light with their mouths, but Allah will only allow His light to be perfected, even to the dismay of the disbelievers."* [al-Tawbah, 9:32] A similar ayah in surah al-Saff states, *"They wish to extinguish Allah's light with their mouths, but Allah will 'certainly' perfect His light, even to the dismay of the disbelievers."* [al-Saff, 61:9]

**"They will not be harmed by those who abandon or oppose them":** Even if others forsake them or refuse to support their cause, this group will persevere and stay strong. Their reliance on Allah and their adherence to the truth will protect them from discouragement, or deviation from the right path.

Examine for instance the condition of the Palestinians, the whole world including Muslim and Arab countries have abandoned them, yet you find them steadfast, unwavering in their struggle for freedom truth and justice.

**"Until the command of Allah comes (or he said, until the Hour is established)":** This implies that this steadfast group will exist until the end of times, remaining a beacon of truth and guidance for the rest of the Ummah. The "command of Allah" can refer to major events such as the coming of the Day of Judgment.

**"I looked at this group and found that they are the people of al-Sham":** In this context, al-Sham refers to the region of Greater Syria, which includes modern-day Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan. Historically, al-Sham has been a significant region for Islamic history and scholarship, hosting numerous pious scholars, martyrs, and defenders of Islam.

In fact, many hadiths mention al-Sham. The mention of al-Sham is to highlight its historical and spiritual significance in Islam. It has been referred to in the Qur'an (surah al-Isra') as a blessed land and it remains a place of struggle and perseverance for the Muslim Ummah.

he struggle of the Palestinians and the Syrians emphasize the importance of steadfastness in the face of adversity. They serve as an example of unwavering faith and determination, regardless of external challenges or internal betrayals.

The events in Palestine and Syria give us hope and reassurance for the Ummah particularly during times of trials and difficulties. It reassures Muslims that a group of believers will always uphold the truth and serve as a source of strength and guidance.

The region of al-Sham continues to face immense trials, and Muslims are reminded to support its people through prayer, advocacy, and charity, as they are fulfilling a significant role in the larger narrative of Islam.

We are reminded of the enduring power of truth and the promise that there will always be those who carry the banner of Islam with sincerity and conviction.

For how long will the criminals and oppressors continue their cruelty and oppression? Allah (SWT) in surah al-Sajdah informs, *“And who is more unjust than one who is reminded of the signs of his Lord, then turns away from them? Surely, We will exact retribution upon the criminals.”* [al-Sajdah, 32:22] This ayah serves as a reminder of Allah's ultimate justice.

The following hadith tells us that in the year 2025, 2026, 2100 and beyond there will always be a group of believers fighting for the truth. Jabir Ibn Abdullah reported that the Messenger of Allah (SAW) said, *“A group from my nation will continue fighting for the truth, prevailing until the Day of Judgment.”* (Muslim)

In a similar hadith narrated by Abu Hurairah (RAA) the Prophet (SAW) prophesied the current events making a reference to Damascus. He (SAW) said, *“There will always be a group from my Ummah fighting on the gates of Damascus and its surroundings, and on the gates of Jerusalem and its surroundings. They will not be harmed by those who abandon them. They will remain steadfast upon the truth until the Day of Judgment.”* (Musnad Ahmad)

In this hadith, The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) foretells that there will always remain a group of believers who stand firm in defense of justice, truth, and faith, particularly in the blessed regions of Damascus (Syria) and Jerusalem (Palestine). These individuals will continue to uphold the truth and defend their lands and beliefs, regardless of the trials and challenges they face.

Even if others fail to support them (whether morally, financially, or physically) they will persevere, relying on their faith and the support of Allah. It serves as a reminder to believers that true victory comes from Allah (SWT), not from the approval or aid of others.

Who had ever thought the Assad Regime will be toppled in just 11 days. *“How often small groups have defeated large groups by God's authority. God is with those who endure.”* [al-Baqarah, 2:249]

It is truly a miracle. We believe in miracles. Miracles were not meant only for Prophets and Messengers. Allah can perform miracles anytime and anywhere. Allah (SWT) promises, *“If you help (the cause of) Allah, Allah will help you and make you firm and steadfast.”* [Muhammad, 47:7]

Both Damascus and Jerusalem hold special significance in Islamic history and tradition. Jerusalem is home to al-Masjid al-Aqsa, the first qibla (direction of prayer) and one of the three most sacred mosques in Islam. Damascus has also been historically significant as a center of Islamic knowledge and civilization. This hadith affirms the blessed status of these regions and their continued importance in the spiritual and political struggles of the Muslim Ummah.

The struggle for justice, faith, and the defense of sacred lands will persist as a defining characteristic of the Muslim Ummah.

The struggles of the people of Palestine, particularly in Jerusalem and al-Aqsa, reflect the enduring relevance of this prophecy. These individuals continue to resist occupation, oppression, and tyranny, demonstrating remarkable faith and courage despite global neglect and betrayal.

What lessons do we learn from the hadiths and current events?

- 1. Support the Truth:** Believers must stand in solidarity with those who are upholding justice and defending sacred lands. This includes moral, financial, and spiritual support, as well as raising awareness about their struggles.
- 2. Remain Firm in Faith:** Just as the hadith highlights the steadfastness of this group, Muslims everywhere must remain committed to their faith and principles, even in the face of trials and opposition. *“O you who believe, be patient, help one another to endure, be resilient and have taqwa of Allah, so you may succeed.”* [Aal ‘Imran, 3:200]
- 3. Trust in Allah's Promise:** We must believe in Allah's Promise that He will aid the righteous, and their perseverance will lead to ultimate success, even if victory seems delayed in this world. *“Surely, Allah is with those who have taqwa and those who are doers of good.”* [al-Nahl, 16:128] The promise of Allah's support for those who remain steadfast in their faith and purpose is indeed true. *“So be patient, for the promise of Allah is certainly true. And do not be disturbed by those who have no sure faith.”* [al-Room, 30:60] Indeed Allah (SWT) does not go back on His promise but most people do not understand and know.

As members of this Ummah, we have a role to play. Let us embody the teachings of Islam, uphold justice, spread peace, and remain steadfast in faith. Allah (SWT) has honored us with this responsibility, and we must rise to the occasion. Our trials are temporary, but Allah's promises are eternal. Let us trust in His plan and strive for a future where the message of Islam is a source of hope, guidance, and peace for all of humanity.

May Allah (SWT) help us be among those groups who will remain steadfast standing on the truth and struggle to establish it, ameen.

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