

THE BATTLEFIELDS OF FAITH

HISTORY OF EARLY ISLAMIC CONQUESTS

The Battle of Badr

Events Leading to Badr

- Abu Sufyan's caravan from Syria
 - Muslims attempted to intercept the caravan
 - On the 12th of Ramadan 313 Muslims left with little resources
- A few youngsters were sent back to Madinah
- Three battle flags were carried by the Muslims
- Retaliation from Abu Sufyan
 - Meccans gathered their army
 - Banu 'Adi is the only tribe that did not participate

Events Leading to Badr

- The Prophet ﷺ consulted the companions
 - Muhajreen declared their allegiance
 - Miqdaad ibn Aswad and Sa'd ibn Mu'ath
- Dream of 'Atikah bint 'Abdul Muttalib
- Battleground speech of 'Utbah
- The Prophet's ﷺ consultation on where to set-up
 - Strategic Position, Hubaab ibn Munthir (RA)

Before the Battle

- The day before the battle, the Prophet ﷺ pointed out where certain people would die
- The Du'a of the Prophet ﷺ the night before Badr
- While straightening the lines the soldiers, a companion named Sawaad ibn Ghaziyyah was out of line
 - The Prophet ﷺ nudged him into line and he complained that he was pushed harder than others
 - The justice of the Prophet ﷺ

Before the Battle

- Mubaarazah: Three v. Three:
 - Ali v. Walid, Hamzah v. Shaybah, ‘Ubaidah v. ‘Utbah
- Abu Jahl made du’a before the battle

إِنْ تَسْتَفْتِحُوا فَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ الْفَتْحُ ۖ وَإِنْ تَنْتَهُوا فَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ ۖ وَإِنْ تَعُودُوا نَعُدْ
وَلَنْ تُغْنِيَ عَنْكُمْ فِئَتُكُمْ شَيْئًا وَلَوْ كَثُرَتْ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ ﴿١٩﴾

(O disbelievers!) You were seeking victory. So, here victory has come unto you. And if you desist (from evil) it will be better for you. And if you return (to fight), so shall We return, and your forces will be of no avail to you however numerous they may be Verily Allah is with the believers.[8:19]

Before the Battle

- The Du'a of the Prophet ﷺ during the battle
- Descent of the Angels:
 - Led by Jibreel, Mikaeel, and Israfeel
 - 1000, 3000, then 5000 angels
- Tranquility of the Sahabah (RA)
- Slaying of:
 - Abu Jahl
 - Umayyah ibn Khalaf

Aftermath of the Battle of Badr

- The Prophet sent messengers to Madinah's people of victory
- 70 Meccans killed and 70 taken as prisoners
 - Corpses disposed in the well of Badr
- 14 companions were martyred
- Muslims fought their own family members:
 - Abu Ubaydah and his father
 - Abbas fought against the Muslims
 - Abu Bakr and his son
 - Mus'ab ibn Umair and his brother

Aftermath of the Battle of Badr

- Prisoners of war
 - Treatment of prisoners
 - Allah is displeased Muslims deciding to ransom [8:67]
 - The Necklace of Khadijah (RA)
- Zaynab's migration
- Abu Al-'Aas accepted Islam in the 7th year after Hijrah
- Other prisoners of war
 - Abu Aziz, the brother of Mus'ab ibn Umair
 - Abbas, the uncle of the Prophet

Aftermath of the Battle of Badr

- Hatib ibn Abi Balta'a
- The people of Badr were guaranteed forgiveness

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ ﷺ قَالَ: إِنَّ اللَّهَ أَطْلَعَ عَلَى أَهْلِ بَدْرٍ فَقَالَ اْعْمَلُوا مَا شِئْتُمْ فَقَدْ غَفَرْتُ لَكُمْ

- Guaranteed not to touch the fire of Hell
- The special Angels

Aftermath of the Battle of Badr

- Reaction of the Meccans after defeat:
 - The Meccans invested the loot of the Badr caravan into preparations for Uhud
 - The first person from the Quraysh to enter Mecca announced the names of those who were killed in the battle.
- The death of Abu Lahab

The Battle of Uhud

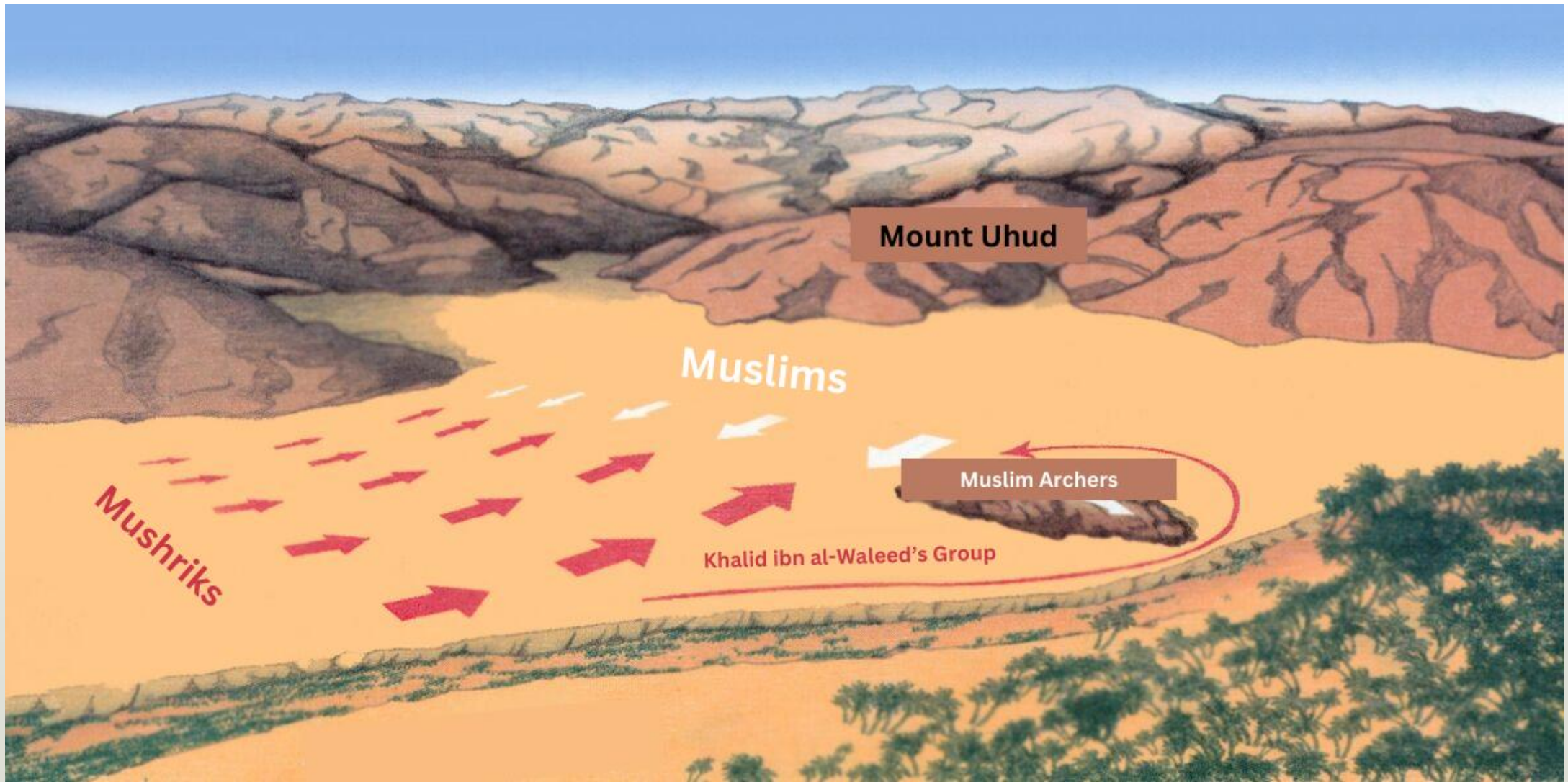
Events Leading to Uhud

- Meccans wanted revenge for Badr
- The warning of Abbas (RA) to the Prophet ﷺ
- Consultation on the strategy:
 - Senior companions suggested staying within Madinah's boundaries
 - Junior companions suggested fighting outside of Madinah
- The final decision of the Prophet ﷺ
 - Donning of his ﷺ armor and the guilt of the young companions
- Motivation of the Youth

The Battle of Uhud

- 11th of Shawwal, 3 A.H.
- The Army:
 - Initially 1000, but 300 Munafiqeen turned away
 - 700 Muslims, 100 armored, and 2 horses
- Commencement of the battle and the initial victory for Muslims
- Abu Dujanah
- Ubayy ibn Khalaf challenges the Prophet ﷺ
- 50 archers of Jabal 'Aynain
 - Command of the Prophet “ ﷺ Even if you see birds pecking at our bodies.”
 - The strategy of Khalid ibn Waleed (RA) against the Muslims

The Battle of Uhud



The Battle of Uhud

- The archers' miscalculation:
 - Only 20 remain on the mountain
- Death of Hamzah and Mus'ab (RA):
 - Hamzah was killed by Wahshee
 - The flag was given to Ali (RA) after the death of Mus'ab (RA)

Companions in Uhud

- 14 companions did not leave the Prophet's ﷺ side
 - Seven Ansar and seven Muhajireen
 - Talha ibn Ubaidillah
 - Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas
 - Abu 'Ubaidah ibn Al-Jarrah
- The injuries of the Prophet ﷺ
 - 'Utbah ibn Abi Waqqas cracked the Prophet's ﷺ teeth
 - Helmet cut into the blessed cheeks of the Prophet ﷺ
- The rumor of the Prophet's ﷺ death

Companions in Uhud

- Mutilation of the Companions
 - 'Amr ibn Jamuh (RA)
 - Mus'ab ibn Umair (RA)
 - Hamzah ibn Abd al-Muttalib (RA)
 - The Prayer of Abdullah ibn Jahsh/ Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas (RA)
 - Handhalah (RA)
- Other notable companions
 - Hamnah bint Jahsh (RA)
 - Nusaybah (RA)
 - Qatadah ibn Nouman (RA)
 - Jabir (RA)

Aftermath of the Battle of Uhud

- Abu Sufyan
- The Prophet ﷺ prays upon the martyrs
- Prophet ﷺ reacts to Hamza's RA death
- Allah SWT forgave the archers

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ تَوَلَّوْا مِنْكُمْ يَوْمَ الْتَقَى الْجَمْعَانِ إِنَّمَا اسْتَزَلَّهُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ بِبَعْضِ مَا كَسَبُوا ۖ وَلَقَدْ عَفَا اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ حَلِيمٌ ﴿١٥٥﴾

Indeed, those of you who turned back on the day the two armies met, it was Satan who caused them to slip because of some [blame] they had earned. But Allah has already forgiven them.

Indeed, Allah is Forgiving and Forbearing. (3:155)

Lessons from the Battle of Uhud

- Following the order of leaders
- Importance of the Prophet's ﷺ traditions
- Preference of Akhirah over Dunya
- When disobeying the Prophet ﷺ in his presence, you lose the help of Allah SWT
- Dua of istikhārah

The Battle of Khandaq

Battle of Khandaq

- Cause: Jews of Banu Nadheer pushed the Quraysh to attack the Muslims
- When: Shawwal, 5 A.H.
- The Matchup: 3,000 Muslims vs 10,000 Non-Muslims
- Salman al-Farisi's idea
 - Miracles while digging the trench

Battle of Khandaq

- Ali vs 'Amr ibn 'Abd-Wud
- The Prophet's ﷺ du'a
- The hypocrites & believers in Surah Al-Ahzab:

وَإِذْ قَالَتْ طَائِفَةٌ مِّنْهُمْ يَا أَهْلَ يَثْرِبَ لَا مُقَامَ لَكُمْ فَارْجِعُوا ۚ وَيَسْتَأْذِنُ فَرِيقٌ مِّنْهُمُ النَّبِيَّ يَقُولُونَ إِنَّ بُيُوتَنَا عَوْرَةٌ وَمَا هِيَ بِعَوْرَةٍ ۖ إِنَّ يُرِيدُونَ إِلَّا فِرَارًا ﴿١٣﴾

وَلَمَّا رَأَى الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الْأَحْزَابَ قَالُوا هَذَا مَا وَعَدَنَا اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ وَصَدَقَ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ ۚ وَمَا زَادَهُمْ إِلَّا إِيمَانًا وَتَسْلِيمًا ﴿٢٢﴾

Expulsion of Banu Qurayzah

- Violation of the treaty
- Jibreel told the Prophet to attack Banu Quraydha
 - Salat-ul-Asr
- The Muslims besiege Banu Quraydha for almost a month
 - Abu Lubabah sent to mediate
- The decision of Sa'd ibn Mu'ath (RA)
- The shaking of Allah's SWT throne

The Battle of Khaybar

Battle of Khaybar

لَقَدْ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ يُبَايِعُونَكَ تَحْتَ الشَّجَرَةِ فَعَلِمَ مَا فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ فَأَنْزَلَ السَّكِينَةَ
عَلَيْهِمْ وَأَتَاهُمُ فَتْحًا قَرِيبًا ﴿١٨﴾ وَمَغَانِمَ كَثِيرَةً يَأْخُذُونَهَا ۚ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَزِيزًا حَكِيمًا ﴿١٩﴾

Certainly was Allah pleased with the believers when they pledged allegiance to you, [O Muhammad], under the tree, and He knew what was in their hearts, so He sent down tranquility upon them and rewarded them with an imminent conquest And much war booty which they will take. And ever is Allah Exalted in Might and Wise. (48:18-19)

Battle of Khaybar

- Sixth year of Dhul Hijjah after Hudaybiyya
 - Hypocrites not permitted to participate in the battle
- Cause of the battle: treachery of the Jewish tribes
- Muslims had 1400 infantry and 200 cavalry
 - The Jews were warned by Abdullah ibn Ubayy, so, with support from other tribes, they prepared an army of 14,000
- Aamir ibn Awka (RA) recites a beautiful poem

Battle of Khaybar

- The Jews used forts as their main method of defense
- The five main forts of Khaybar:
 - Naim
 - Qamus
 - Saab ibn Muaz
 - Qullah
 - Watih and Salalim

Battle of Khaybar

- Ali (RA) and Marhab
- Ali (RA) given the flag
 - Curing of his eye
- Conquering of the forts
- Prophet ﷺ got poisoned by a Jewish woman
 - Eventually was a cause of his death

Aftermath of Khaybar

- Approximately 10 Muslims were killed
- More prohibitions are legislated
- Arrival of Abu Musa, Abu Hurayrah, and Ja'far (RA) with their people
 - Umm Habiba returns from Abyssinia with Ja'far (RA)
- Prophet's ﷺ marriage to Safiyyah bint Huyayy (RA)

The Battle of Yarmuk

Events Leading to the Battle of Yarmuk

- Took place in the 15th of Hijrah or 636 circa between the Muslims and Roman Byzantine Empire.
- The battle took place during the caliphate of Abu Bakr.
- The Muslims began to expand their borders.
- The Romans saw this as a threat, so they also began to march in their direction, in hopes of intercepting any Muslim army.
- The ruler and leader of the Roman Byzantines was Emperor Heraclius.
- Heraclius knew of Islam's growth. He was famously sent a letter of Islam from the Prophet Muhammad (saws).

Events Leading to the Battle of Yarmuk

- During that year, the Byzantines were defeated at Ajnadayn.
- Damascus fell, followed by the Battle of Fahl in which the last significant garrison of Palestine was defeated and routed.
- Byzantine preparations began in late 635 and by May 636 Heraclius had a large force concentrated at Antioch in Northern Syria.
- The force was organized into five armies. The armies consisted of Slavs, Franks, Georgians, Armenians, Christian Arabs, Lombards, Avars, Khazars, Balkans and Göktürks.
- The Rashidun army was then split into four groups: one under 'Amr in Palestine, one under Shurahbil in Jordan, one under Yazid in the Damascus-Caesarea region and the last one under Abu Ubaidah along with Khalid at Emesa.

The Battle of Yarmuk

- The two armies met near the Yarmuk River, which is about fifty miles long
- The Muslim army consisted of about 30,000-40,000 men.
- The Byzantines consisted of about 70,000. Some historians say that it was well over 100,000.
- The Romans said, “By God we will preoccupy Abu Bakr so much that he will not be able to send his cavalry to our land.”
- The commanders wrote to Abu Bakr and Umar informing them of the great danger. Abu Bakr wrote back, instructing them to unite: "You will not be defeated due to a lack of numbers but due to sins, so beware of them. Let each man lead his companions in prayer.”

The Battle of Yarmuk

- Abu Bakr said, "By God, I will preoccupy the Christians from the whispers of Satan with Khalid ibn al-Walid." He wrote to Khalid, who was in Iraq, to come to Syria and take command of the forces there
- When the two armies faced each other and the forces engaged in combat, Abu Ubaidah addressed the Muslims, saying:

عباد الله ، انصروا الله ينصركم ويثبت أقدامكم ، يا معشر المسلمين ، اصبروا ؛ فإن الصبر منجاة من الكفر ، ومرضاة للرب ، ومدحضة للعار ، ولا تبرحوا مصافكم ، ولا تخطوا إليهم خطوة ، ولا تبدأوهم بالقتال ، وأشرعوا الرماح واستتروا بالدرق ، والزموا الصمت إلا من ذكر الله في أنفسكم ، حتى أمركم إن شاء الله تعالى

Servants of Allah, support Allah and He will support you and make your foothold firm. O Muslims, be patient, for patience is a means of salvation from disbelief, a source of the Lord's pleasure, and a dispeller of shame. Do not abandon your positions, do not advance towards them, and do not initiate the fight. Ready your spears and shield yourselves with your armor. Maintain silence except for the remembrance of Allah in your hearts, until I command you, if Allah wills

The Battle of Yarmuk

- Muslim army divided into left wing, left center, right center, and right wing. The Byzantine army also divided into similar sections.
- Zubayr ibn al-Awwām took part in the battle
- Whenever Mu'adh ibn Jabal heard the voices of the priests and monks, he would say, "O Allah, shake their feet, terrify their hearts, send tranquility upon us, make us steadfast in the word of piety, make us love the encounter (with the enemy), and make us pleased with Your decree
- The Byzantine left flank attacked the Muslim right wing, causing initial retreat.
- A group of people withdrew to the camp, but a significant number of Muslims remained steadfast

The Battle of Yarmuk

- The Muslim women played a major role in encouraging the men to continue fighting
 - Ibn Kathir writes about the Muslim women on that day, saying, “The women of the Muslims fought on this day and killed many Romans. They struck those Muslims who fled and said, "Where are you going, leaving us to the infidels?" When they rebuked them, no one could resist but return to the fight.”
- When they were struck down by injuries, they requested water. A drink of water was brought to them, and when it was brought near to one of them, he looked at another and said, "Give it to him." When it was given to that person, he looked at another and said, "Give it to him." They continued to pass it from one to another until they all died, and none of them drank it.”

The Battle of Yarmuk

- Khalid's master tactics left the Romans disillusioned and shocked.
- Roman general Jorja accepted Islam during the battle.
- Jorja fought alongside Khalid and was martyred.
- A unified Muslim assault caused the Romans to flee.
- During the Battle, Abu Bakr passed away in Madinah.
- When Khalid consoled the Muslims over the loss of Abu Bakr, he said: "Praise be to Allah who decreed death for Abu Bakr, who was more beloved to me than Umar. Praise be to Allah who appointed Umar, whom I disliked compared to Abu Bakr, and made me love him."

After the Battle of Yarmuk

- The Byzantine Romans were not able to recover.
- The Muslims continued their momentum by conquering more Roman land. This included Jerusalem, Damascus, Egypt and more.
- Heraclius escaped and took to the sea on a ship to Constantinople in the night.
- He was heartbroken by Syria's loss. Syria was one of the capitals of the Byzantines.
- Heraclius uttered the famous words, "Farewell, a long farewell to Syria, my fair province. Thou art an infidel's (enemy's) now. Peace be with you, O Syria—what a beautiful land you will be for the enemy's hands."
- The Roman Byzantines never matched the Muslims again. Until a few hundred years later, when the crusades began.

The Battle of Qadisiyyah

The Battle of Qadisiyyah

- Took place during the caliphate of 'Umar between the Muslims and the Persian Sassanid Empire right after the Battle of Yarmuk.
- The Battle of Yarmuk took place 3 months before Qadisiyyah.
- The Persian general was Rustam Farrokhzad. The emperor of the Sassanid Persians was Yazdegerd III.
- This was the battle that broke the backs of the Sassanids and allowed for Muslims to enter and conquer Persian lands.
- Islam spread into Persia exponentially after this battle.

Events that Led to the Battle of Qadisiyyah

- The battle took place in the 15th of Hijrah, circa 636 AD.
- The Muslims slowly took control of Iraq, a strong hub of the Persian Empire.
- Khalid ibn al-Walid won multiple battles in Iraq, including the Battle of Chains, the Battle of River, the Battle of Walaja, and the Battle of Ullays in 633 AD.
- The Persian Empire was faltering, and the Muslims captured Iraq's capital city, Al-Hirah.
- Yazdegerd III sought an alliance with Heraclius to prepare for a counterattack against the Muslims.
- Heraclius sealed the alliance by marrying his granddaughter Manyanh to Yazdegerd III.

Events that Led to the Battle of Qadisiyyah

- Heraclius planned a large offensive in the Levant and Yazdegerd directed the concentration of vast troops to retake Iraq for good.
- Both emperors wanted to destroy the power of their common opponent, Umar RA
- Umar appointed Sa'd ibn Abī Waqqās as commander of this army
- Umar commanded Sa'd to send messengers to Yazdegerd III and Rostam Farrokhzad, inviting them to convert to Islam. These negotiations persisted for 3 months
- They gave the Persians 3 options to choose from: becoming Muslim, paying jizyah, or going to war.
- After the negotiations fell through, both sides prepared for battle

The Battle of Qadisiyyah

- ‘Umar sent his army to Qadisiyyah, located on the west bank of the river Ateeq
- Sa'd ibn Abī Waqqās led the Muslims in prayer and encouraged them before the battle, reciting the verse: "And We have already written in the Book [of Psalms] after the [previous] mention that the land is inherited by My righteous servants" (Al-Anbiya: 105).
- The Muslim army consisted of between seven thousand and eight thousand, while Rustam's forces were sixty thousand.
- The battle lasted for several days, with intense fighting and many casualties on both sides.

The Battle of Qadisiyyah

- The Persians used war elephants, which caused difficulties for the Muslim army.
- The Companions managed to kill the elephants and their riders, even gouging out the elephants' eyes.
- A heavy sandstorm on the final day of the battle disrupted the Persian army.
- Rustam was killed by the Muslims while trying to flee the battlefield.
- The Persians were decisively defeated, with the Muslims killing thirty thousand chained soldiers and ten thousand others in the battle.
- The Muslims lost two thousand five hundred martyrs during the battle and the preceding days

Aftermath of the Battle of Qadisiyyah

- Umm Kathir, the wife of Hammam ibn al-Harith al-Nakha'ī said: We were present at the Battle of al-Qadisiyyah with Sa'd along with our husbands. When we were informed that the battle was over, we tightened our clothes and took up clubs. We went to the battlefield, and if we found a wounded Muslim, we would give him water and lift him up. If we found a wounded polytheist, we would finish him off.
- Much wealth was taken after Qadisiyyah and Umar RA knew this would be a means of trial for the Muslims
 - While looking through the spoils of the battle, Umar RA began to cry. Abdul Rahman ibn Awf said, “O Commander of the Faithful, this is a day of joy and happiness.” Umar replied, “Yes, but no people have ever received this except that it brought them enmity and hatred.”

Aftermath of the Battle of Qadisiyyah

- The battle shook Sassanian rule in Iraq to its foundations but was not the end of their rule in Iraq.
- The Sassanids held their capital in Iraq, Ctesiphon.
- ‘Umar thus sent instructions to Saad b. Abi Waqqas that, as a sequel to the battle of Qadisiyyah, the Muslims should push forward to capture Ctesiphon. The Siege of Ctesiphon continued for two months, and the city was finally taken.
- Today, Ctesiphon is merely ruins.
- Yazdgerd III, the final Persian emperor, was slain during the reign of ‘Uthman b. ‘Affan.
- His death officially ended the Sassanid royal bloodline and empire.

The Conquest of Jerusalem

The Conquest of Jerusalem

- ‘Umar ibn al-Khattab was the caliph for 10 years.
- One of his significant achievements was the conquest of Jerusalem in 16th Hijrah (637 AD).
- Jerusalem would be ruled by Muslims for the next 462 years, with religious freedom for minorities protected according to the Treaty of Umar.
- The merits of the region of Jerusalem are closely tied to Masjid al-Aqsa and its significance in Islam.
- The conquest of Jerusalem was prophesied by Prophet Muhammad (SAWS).

Events Leading to the Conquest

- The Byzantines were still recovering from their defeat at the Battle of Yarmouk.
- Muslim armies were already in the vicinity of Jerusalem due to other battles in Syria.
- Abu Ubaidah wrote to the people of Jerusalem, inviting them to Islam or to pay the Jizya, but they refused.
- Jerusalem was under Byzantine rule and an important city of the Byzantine province of Palaestina Prima.
- The region had experienced invasions and looting by the Sassanids 23 years prior.
- The living condition before Muslims entered was difficult. Many people were living in impoverished conditions.

The Siege and Initial Strategy

- Abu Ubayda convened a council of war and wrote to Caliph 'Umar for instructions.
- 'Umar ordered the capture of Jerusalem, leading Abu Ubayda to march towards the city.
- Muslim forces arrived at Jerusalem in early November, and the Byzantine forces withdrew into the fortified city.
- The siege was intended to cut off supplies to the Byzantines, leading to a negotiated surrender.

Umar's Arrival and Khutbah

- ‘Umar arrived at Al-Jabiya on his way to Jerusalem, giving a significant khutbah to his army.
 - "O people, rectify your inner selves and your outer selves will be rectified. Work for your Hereafter and your worldly affairs will be taken care of."
- The Byzantine soldiers from Jerusalem sought peace and security from ‘Umar upon hearing of his arrival.
- ‘Umar granted them safety, wrote a document of reconciliation, and imposed the Jizya.
- The Muslim army, about 20,000 strong, continued the siege until the Byzantines offered to surrender.

Entrance into Jerusalem

- ‘Umar arrived in Jerusalem on a gray camel, symbolizing humility and simplicity.
- Abu Ubaidah said to ‘Umar, "Today you have done a great deed in the eyes of the people of the earth; you have done such and such." ‘Umar struck him on the chest and said, "Woe to you, if someone other than you had said it, Abu Ubaidah! You were the most humiliated, the most despised, and the least significant of people, but Allah honored you with Islam. Whenever you seek honor through anything other than Islam, Allah will humiliate you."
- ‘Umar’s entry into Jerusalem marked the end of nearly 500 years of Roman rule and oppression for the Jewish community.
- Umar permitted the Jews to once again reside within the city of Jerusalem itself.

After the Battle

- ‘Umar was given a tour of the city by Sophronius.
- Sophronius, the Christian Patriarch of Jerusalem, invited ‘Umar to pray at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.
- ‘Umar declined, fearing it would jeopardize the church's status as a Christian site.
- ‘Umar cleaned the sacred rock with his clothing and ordered the construction of a masjid.
- ‘Umar stayed in Jerusalem for about 10 days before returning to Madinah.

The Battle of Guadalete

The Battle of Guadalete

- The Battle of Guadalete was the first major battle of the Muslim conquest of the Iberian Peninsula.
- It took place in the year 711 AD/92 AH.
- It was fought between the Visigoths under their king, Roderic, and the forces of the Umayyad Caliphate.
- The general of the Muslim army was Tariq b. Ziyad.
- Musa b. Nusayr was the governor of North Africa under the Umayyads.

Background of the Visigoths

- The Visigoths were a Germanic people living within the Roman Empire during late antiquity.
- For a time, the Visigoths controlled the strongest kingdom in Western Europe.
- Guadalete is a river located almost entirely in the southern Spanish Province of Cádiz.
- The river's name comes from the Arabic phrase وادي لكة meaning "River of Forgetfulness" or the "River of Calamity".
- The river is connected to the North Atlantic Ocean and the Strait of Gibraltar.

Events Leading to the Battle

- Tariq ibn Ziyad was the governor of Tangier under Musa ibn Nusayr.
- Tariq saw ships arriving and learned from Julian, the leader of the passengers on the ships, about Roderic's oppression.
- Julian invited Tariq to Andalusia to help overthrow Roderic.
- Tariq assembled twelve thousand Berbers and crossed the Strait of Gibraltar.
- Roderic had violated Julian's daughter, which enraged Julian and led him to seek revenge.
- Tariq was a young man, about 20 years old, when he led the invasion.

The Battle Commences

- Tariq's army consisted of about 12,000 men, while Roderic had between 15,000 and 33,000
- The battle took place at Wadi Lakka in the province of Shadhuna.
- The battle lasted from sunrise until sunset on the first day and continued for eight days.
- Roderic's forces were ultimately defeated, and his whereabouts remained unknown. Some say he drowned and others say he was killed.
- Tariq's forces grew stronger and spread throughout the land after their victory.

Aftermath of the Battle

- The Battle of Guadalete played a pivotal role in the spread of Islam into Iberia (Andalus).
- Many cities welcomed the Muslims due to their discontent with Roderic's oppressive rule.
- Iberia remained an Islamic stronghold for about 800 years until its fall.
- Tariq's victory at Guadalete marked the beginning of a significant transformation in the region.

The Battle of Manzikert

The Battle of Manzikert

- The Battle of Manzikert took place on 26 August 1071 AD (463 AH).
- The battle was between the Byzantine Empire and the Seljuk Turks.
- The Byzantine Emperor, Romanos IV Diogenes, led the Byzantine forces.
- The Seljuk forces were led by Sultan Alp Arslan.
- The battle was a decisive victory for the Seljuks and marked a turning point in the history of the Byzantine Empire.

Who Were the Seljuks?

- The Seljuks were a ruling military family of the Oğuz Turkic tribes.
- They conquered parts of southwestern Asia in the 11th century and founded an empire including Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine, and most of Iran.
- Their advance marked the beginning of Turkish power in the Middle East, from which the Ottoman Empire later emerged.
- The Seljuk state was established under the first three sultans: Tughril Beg, Alp Arslan, and Malik Shah.
- The Seljuks administered a Sunni state under the nominal authority of the Abbasid caliphs at Baghdad.

Events Leading to the Battle

- The Byzantine Empire was deteriorating, having lost many battles to the Seljuks, Umayyads, Abbasids, and the Rashidun.
- Alp Arslan and Romanos IV Diogenes had a peace treaty that Romanos planned to break.
- Romanos sent envoys to Alp Arslan in February 1071 to renew the 1069 treaty as a ruse.
- Romanos saw an opportunity to reclaim lost territory while Alp Arslan was occupied with the Fatimids.
- Alp Arslan learned of Romanos' deception and prepared to march towards Romanos' army.

Battle Preparations

- Romanos' army included Franks, Russians, Varangians, and Pechenegs, reaching around 40,000 men.
- Some historians estimate the Byzantine forces to be between 100,000 and 200,000 including cavalry and allies.
- Alp Arslan's army consisted of about 40,000 men, including allies and cavalry from Aleppo and Mosul.
- Alp Arslan's scouts knew the exact location of Romanos, while Romanos was unaware of his opponent's movements.

The Battle of Manzikert

- Alp Arslan positioned an advance guard, which encountered and defeated the Byzantine vanguard.
- The Sultan sent a message to Romanos asking for a truce, but Romanos refused, saying "There is no truce except in Rayy."
- Alp Arslan's imam, Abu Nasr Muhammad ibn Abd al-Malik al-Bukhari, advised him to confront the Byzantines on Friday after the noon prayer.

"You are fighting for a religion that Allah has promised to support and make victorious over all other religions. I hope that Allah has decreed this victory in your name. Confront them on Friday after the noon prayer, at the time when the preachers are on the pulpits, as they will be praying for the warriors' victory, and prayers are answered at that time."

The Battle of Manzikert

- On the day of the battle, Alp Arslan led his troops in prayer and prepared for martyrdom.
- He dressed in white, perfumed himself, and said, "If I am killed, this will be my shroud."
- The Byzantine forces were decisively defeated, and Romanos IV Diogenes was captured.
- Alp Arslan spared Romanos after capturing him. He was ransomed for a large sum and agreed to send Roman troops whenever the Sultan requested and to release all Muslim prisoners in Roman lands

Aftermath of the Battle

- The decisive defeat undermined Byzantine authority in Anatolia and Armenia.
- Many Turks, travelling westward during the 11th century, saw the victory at Manzikert as an entrance to Asia Minor.
- All of the commanders on the Byzantine side survived and took part in later events. The Sultan spared them.
- To this day, the area of Eastern Turkey is majority Muslim and has been considered Muslim lands.
- The Byzantine Empire was limited to the area immediately around Constantinople, and they were never again a serious military force.
- 400 years after Manzikert, the Muslims set their sights on Constantinople.

The Battle of ʿAyn Jālūt

The Battle of ‘Ayn Jālūt

- The Battle of ‘Ayn Jalut was fought between the Bahri Mamluks of Egypt and the Mongol Empire.
- The battle took place in the year 1260 AD (658 AH) during the month of Ramadan.
- ‘Ayn Jalut is an all-year spring in the Jezreel Valley, located near the northwest corner of Mount Gilboa.
- The Mongol Empire, also known as the Tatars, was the largest contiguous empire in history.
- The battle marked a significant turning point in halting the Mongol advance into the Muslim world.

Events that Led to the Battle

- In 1258 AD, the Mongols destroyed Baghdad, killing over a million people and decimating the city.
- The Mongols continued westward with aims to obliterate the Muslims.
- Hulagu Khan, Genghis Khan's grandson, led the Mongols with his brother Möngke as the ruler of the empire.
- Hulagu sent envoys to Cairo demanding surrender, but Sultan Qutuz responded by killing the envoys.

Events that Led to the Battle

- After conquering much of the Levant, Hulagu and much of his army withdrew from the region.
- There are two main positions regarding the reason for this withdrawal:
 - The death of Hulagu's brother on an expedition to China. This made Hulagu and other senior Mongols return home to decide his successor.
 - Because he could not sustain such a large army logistically. Also, it was a Mongol custom to move to cooler lands for the summer
- This withdrawal was seen as an opportunity for the Muslims to prepare for war.
- The Muslims knew that the Mongols would eventually continue their conquests in their lands. They wanted to catch the Mongols off guard.

Preparation for Battle

- Sultan Qutuz decided to pre-empt the Mongols before they could strike Egypt.
- Qutuz set out with the Egyptian armies, gaining unanimous support.
- The Mamluks, led by Qutuz and General Baybars, reached Syria and caught the Mongol forces off guard.
- The Mongol army, led by Kitbuqa Noyan, was stationed in the Beqaa Valley.
- Kitbuqa decided to engage the Mamluks despite some advising against it without reinforcements from Hulagu.

The Battle of 'Ayn Jālūt

- The Mongol army consisted of between 20,000 and 30,000 soldiers, while the Mamluks had between 10,000 and 20,000
- The Mamluks had the advantage of knowing the terrain and hid the bulk of their forces in the highlands.
- General Baybars used hit-and-run tactics to enrage the Mongols while keeping most of his troops intact.
- The Mongols, led by Kitbuqa, were drawn into the highlands where the Mamluks ambushed them.

The Battle of 'Ayn Jālūt

- Qutuz personally led the charge, shouting "Oh my Islam" to rally his troops.
- The two armies fought a fierce and intense battle on Friday, the 25th of Ramadan.
- Many of the Muslims were fasting during this time.
- The Muslims defeated the Mongols, killing Kitbuqa Noyan and many of his men
- The Mamluks pursued the fleeing Mongols, killing them at every turn and in every tight spot.

Aftermath of the Battle

- Hulagu Khan ordered the execution of An-Nasir Yusuf, the last Ayyubid amir of Aleppo and Damascus, after learning of the Mongol defeat.
- The victory at 'Ayn Jalut marked the first major defeat of the Mongol Empire and halted their advance into the Muslim world.
- The Mamluks quickly conquered Damascus and Aleppo following the battle.
- The battle saved Cairo and the sacred sites of Mecca and Medina from Mongol destruction.
- Some historians say that the Battle of 'Ayn Jalut saved the Muslim world.