

# Biographies of the Imams of *Tafsīr* & Qur'ānic

## Sciences

(may Allah have mercy upon them)

in alphabetical order

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## A

### **Al-Ālūsī**

He was Maḥmūd ibn ‘Abdullāh al-Ālūsī, also known as al-Ālūsī al-Kabīr. He was born in 1217 AH (1802) and died in 1270 AH (1854). He was a scholar from Iraq known for his mastery of Arabic and his commentary of the Qur’ān, *Rūḥ al-Ma’ānī fī Tafsīr al-Qur’ān wal-Sab’ al-Mathānī* also known as *Tafsīr al-Ālūsī*.

### **‘Abdullāh ibn ‘Abbās**

He was known as the interpreter of the Qur’ān and ocean of knowledge. He was the son of the uncle of the Prophet (ﷺ). His mother was Umm al-Faḍl, and he was born around three years before migration, it is said while the Muslims were living under the boycott in the Shi’b of Abū Ṭālib. He settled in Makkah and taught for many years becoming one of the primary teachers amongst the Companions. He passed away in Tā’if in the year 68 AH (678).

### **‘Abdullāh ibn Mas’ūd**

The famous Companion and scholar who was from the early Muslims. He was especially well known for his knowledge of the Qur’ān. He later settled in Kufah and taught there, becoming the primary teacher amongst the Companions in that region. He died in 32 AH (653).

### **‘Abdullāh ibn ‘Umar**

The famous Companion and son of the famous Caliph, ‘Umar. He was born before the migration and became from the scholars of the Companions and one of the primary teachers in Madīnah. He was known for his prolific narration of *ḥadīth* and strict observance of the *Sunnah*. He died in 73 AH (692).

### **‘Abdur-Razzāq**

He was the famous scholar of his time, ‘Abdur-Razzāq ibn Hammām al-Ṣan’ānī. He was born in 126 AH (744) in Ṣan’ā’. He studied under the likes of Awzā’ī and Sufyān al-Thawrī and was teacher to the likes of Imam Aḥmad and Yaḥyā ibn Ma’īn. He died in 211 AH (827).

### **Abū ‘Amr al-Baṣrī**

He was one of the seven famous imams of *qirā’ah*. His names was Zabbān ibn al-‘Alā’. He was born around 68 AH (687). He studied under the likes of Ḥasan al-Baṣrī and ‘Ikrimah and was the imam of Qur’ān recitation in the time of students of the Companions who resided in Baṣrah. He died in 154 AH (771).

### **Abū Bakr al-Jazāirī**

He was Abū Bakr Jābir ibn Mūsā al-Jazāirī. He was born in 1342 AH (1923). Originally from Algeria, he moved to Saudi Arabia and became one of the professors of the Islamic University of Madīnah. He taught in the Prophet’s mosque for over 50 years. His work on *tafsīr* is called *Aysar al-Tafāsīr li Kalām al-‘Aliyy al-Kabīr*. He died in 2018 in Madīnah.

### **Abū Dāwūd**

He was the great scholar of *ḥadīth*, Sulaymān ibn al-Ash'ath al-Sijistānī, better known as Abū Dāwūd. He was born in 202 AH (817) and travelled the Muslim world in the pursuit of knowledge. He is considered from the teachers of al-Tirmidhī and his collection of *ḥadīth* is one of the famous six. He died in 275 AH (888).

### **Abul-Ḥārith**

He was Al-Layth ibn Khālīd, one of the two narrators of Al-Kisā'ī's Qur'ān recitation. He died in 240 AH (854).

### **Abū Ḥayyān**

He was Muḥammad ibn Yūsūf al-Gharnāṭī, better known as Abū Ḥayyān, from the scholars of Andalus. He was born in 654 AH (1256) and excelled in Arabic grammar. His *tafsīr*, *Al-Baḥr al-Muḥīṭ* is printed in 8 volumes and is widely referred to for Arabic language and grammar. Abū Ḥayyān died in 745 AH (1344).

### **Abū Hurayrah**

The famous Companion and most prolific narrator of *ḥadīth*, 'Abdur Raḥmān ibn Ṣakhr, better known by his *kunya* Abū Hurayrah. He came to Madīnah around the time of the



Battle of Khaybar. He was from the poor Companions but dedicated his life to studying and memorising the narrations of the Prophet (ﷺ). He died in Madīnah in the year 59 AH (679).

### **Abū Ja'far**

He was one of the imams of the ten *qirā'āt*, Yazīd ibn al-Qa'qā'. He was from the scholars of Madīnah and studied his Qur'ān recitation from Ibn 'Abbās amongst others. He died in 130 AH (747).

### **Abū Mūsā al-Ash'arī**

He was a famous Companion who died in 44 AH (665). He was known for his narration of *ḥadīth* and his beautiful recitation of the Qur'ān. He was the governor of Basrah during the time of 'Umar and 'Uthmān, and then went on to become governor of Kufah during the time of 'Alī where he would stay there until he passed away.

### **Abū 'Ubayd**

He was Al-Qāsim ibn Sallām, from the great scholars of *ḥadīth* and *fiqh*, *tafsīr* and *qirā'āt*. He was born in 157 AH (774). He has books in Qur'ānic sciences. He died in 224 AH (838).

### **Abul-Su'ūd**

He was Muḥammad ibn Muḥammad ibn Mustafā, known as Abul-Su'ūd. He was born in 898 AH (1493). He was a scholar of the Ḥanafī *madh-hab* and a scholar of the Ottoman era. He

has a well-known *tafsīr* called *Irshād al-‘Aql al-Salīm ilā Mazāya al-Kitāb al-Karīmī*, also known as *Tafsīr Abul-Su‘ūd*. He died in Constantinople in 982 AH (1574).

### **Aḥmad ibn Ḥanbal**

The Imam of Ahlus-Sunnah, born in 164 AH (780) in Baghdad. He would become one of the greatest scholars of his time and all time, his *madh-hab* is one of the famous four schools of Islamic law, and his *Musnad* is one of the biggest compilations of *ḥadīth*. He studied under some of the great scholars of his era including Imam al-Shāfi‘ī. He stood in the face of falsehood and injustice and was imprisoned and tortured as a result. He died in 240 AH (855).

### **‘Ā’ishah**

The mother of the believers and wife of the Prophet (ﷺ). She was born before the migration and died in 58 AH (678). She was considered to be from amongst the foremost scholars of the Companions and one of the most prolific narrators of *ḥadīth*.

### **‘Alī**

The famous Companion, fourth Caliph and son in law of the Prophet (ﷺ). He was born before Prophethood in Makkah and grew up to become one of the earliest Muslims and one of the most senior Companions. He was known to be amongst the most knowledgeable Companions and died in 40 AH (661).

### **‘Alqamah**

The famous scholar of *tafsīr*, ‘Alqamah ibn Qays. He was well known for his *tafsīr* commentary. It is said he was born during the lifetime of the Prophet (ﷺ) and narrated from a number of senior Companions, and is well known for his narrations from Ibn Mas‘ūd. He died in 62 AH (681).

### **Al-A’mash**

He was Sulaymān ibn Mihrān al-Asadī. He was born in 61 AH (680) and became from the leading scholars of his time. He was a teacher to the likes of Shu‘bah and Sufyān al-Thawrī. He died in 148 AH (765).

### **Anas ibn Mālīk**

The famous and illustrious companion, the servant of the Prophet (ﷺ). He was born before the migration and was from the Anṣār of Madīnah. He was from the last Companions to pass away, and died in Basrah in 93 AH (712).

### **‘Āṣim**

He was one of the seven the famous imams of *qirā’āt*, ‘Āṣim ibn Abi al-Nujūd. His study of Qur’ān recitation returns to the Companions, ‘Alī, Ibn Mas‘ūd and Zayd ibn Thābit. He died in 129 AH (746).

## **‘Aṭā’**

The famous scholar of *tafsīr* and *ḥadīth*, ‘Aṭā’ ibn Abū Muslim al-Khurāsānī. He was born in the year 50 AH (670). His narrations and *tafsīr* commentary are widely cited in the books of *tafsīr*. He died in 135 AH (757).

## **Al-Awzā’ī**

The imam of the Levant (Al-Shām), ‘Abdur-Raḥmān ibn ‘Amr al-Awzā’ī. He was born in the year 88 AH (707). He studied under the likes of ‘Aṭā’, Qatādah and al-Zuhrī, and in turn was a teacher to the like of al-Thawrī and Ibn al-Mubārak. Imam Mālik said about him, “Al-Awzā’ī is an imam worthy of being followed.” He died 157 AH (774).

## **B**

### **Al-Baghawī**

He was Ḥusayn ibn Mas’ūd al-Baghawī. He was from the scholars of *ḥadīth* and Shāfi’ī *fiqh*. His book in *tafsīr* is well known as widely used, it is called, *Ma’ālim al-Tanzīl* but is more famously referred to as *Tafsīr al-Baghawī*. He died in the year 516 AH (1222).

### **Al-Bayḍāwī**

He was ‘Abdullāh ibn ‘Umar ibn Muāammad al-Bayḍāwī. He was from the scholars of the Shāfi‘ī *madh-hab* and has a famous *tafsīr* called, *Anwār al-Tanzīl wa Asrār al-Ta’wīl* better known as *Tafsīr al-Bayḍāwī*. He died in 658 AH (1286).

### **Al-Bazziyy**

He was Aḥmad ibn Muḥammad, one of the two narrators from the imam of *qirā’ah* Ibn Kathīr. He was born 170 AH (786) and died in 250 AH (864).

### **Al-Biqā’ī**

His full name was Ibrāhīm ibn ‘Umar al-Biqā’ī. He was born in 809 AH (1406) and died in 885 AH (1480). He lived in Damascus and was a scholar of *ḥadīth* and *tafsīr*. His book, *Nazm al-Durar fī Tanāsub al-Āyāt wal-Suwar* is a book which focuses on the relationship and relevance between chapters and verses of the Qur’ān.

### **Al-Bukhārī**

The great scholar of *ḥadīth* and compiler of the most authentic compilation, he was Muḥammad ibn Ismā‘īl al-Bukhārī. Born in the year 194 AH (810). He became the leading scholar of *ḥadīth* of his time. Ibn Khuzaymah said, “There is no one beneath the heavens more knowledgeable about *ḥadīth* than al-Bukhārī.” He died in 256 AH (870).

## **D**

### **Al-Ḍaḥḥāk**

He was Al-Ḍaḥḥāk ibn Muzāḥim, Abul Qāsim. One of the famous scholars of *tafsīr* from the *tābi'ūn*. Sufyān al-Thawrī said, "Take *tafsīr* from four: Mujāhid, 'Ikrimah, Sa'īd ibn Jubayr and al-Ḍaḥḥāk." He died in 105 AH (723).

### **Al-Dānī**

He was 'Uthmān ibn Sa'īd, Abu 'Amr al-Dānī. He was born in 371 AH (981) and was from the imams of *qirā'āt* and the Qur'ānic sciences. He died in 444 AH (1053).

### **Al-Dehlawī**

He was Shāh Waliyy Allāh, Aḥmad ibn 'Abdur-Raḥīm al-Dehlawī. Born in 1110 AH (1699) in Delhi, India. He was from the great scholars of *ḥadīth* and *Sunnah* in India and he left behind a legacy of students and works. He has a number of books on *tafsīr* and Qur'ānic sciences. He passed away in 1176 AH (1726).

### **Al-Dūrī**

He was Ḥafṣ ibn 'Umar al-Dūrī, one of the two main narrators of the recitation of 'Abū 'Amr al-Baṣrī. He became the imam of Qur'ān recitation in Baghdad during his time and died in 246 AH (860). Al-Dūrī is also one of the two narrators of Imam al-Kisā'ī's Qur'ān recitation.

## H

### Ḥafṣ

He was one of the two narrators of ‘Āṣim’s recitation and his narrations is the most well-known mode of Qur’ān recitation in the world today. His name was Ḥafṣ ibn Sulaymān. He was born in 90 AH (709) and was the stepson of ‘Āṣim. He died in 180 AH (796).

### Ḥamzah

He was Ḥamzah ibn Ḥabīb, one of the seven imams of *qirā’āt*. He was born in 80 AH (699) and his recitation goes back to Ibn Mas’ūd amongst others. Imam Abū Ḥanīfah said about him, “He bested us in two things; the Qur’ān and inheritance.” He died in 156 AH (773).

### Al-Ḥasan al-Baṣrī

From the leaders of the *tābi’ūn* and the greatest scholar of his generation, he was the imam of Basrah. Born in 21 AH (642) in Madīnah, he met a number of the Companions and heard from them. He has extensive narrations of commentary on the Qur’ān and is considered one of the experts of the field. He died in 110 AH (728).

### Hishām

He was Hishām ibn ‘Ammār, one of the two narrators of Ibn ‘Āmir’s recitation. He was born in 153 AH (770) and was a well-known narrator of *ḥadīth*. He died in 245 AH (859).

# I

## **Ibn ‘Abdul-Barr**

The great scholar of his era, a specialist in *ḥadīth* and *fiqh* amongst other sciences, Yūsuf ibn ‘Abdullāh ibn ‘Abdul-Barr, Abū ‘Umar. He was born in 368 AH (978). He has a great number of books and one of the greatest explanations of the *Al-Muwaṭṭa’* of Imam Mālik. He died in 463 AH (1071).

## **Ibn Abū Ḥātim**

He was ‘Abdur Raḥmān ibn Muḥammad ibn Abū Ḥātim. He was born in 240 AH (854) and was from the great scholars of *ḥadīth* and *tafsīr*. His father was the famous *ḥadīth* scholar Abū Ḥātim al-Rāzī. His famous *tafsīr* known as *Tafsīr Ibn Abī Ḥātim* focuses on *tafsīr* narrations. He died in 327 AH (938).

## **Ibn Abū Zamaniyn**

He was Muḥammad ibn ‘Abdullāh, better known as Ibn Abū Zamaniyn. Born in 324 AH (936), he was from the leading scholars of Andalusia in his time. He has a work of *tafsīr* entitled, *Tafsīr al-Qur’ān al-‘Azīz*, which is a summary of the *tafsīr* of Yaḥyā ibn Salām. He died in 399 AH (1008).



### **Ibn ‘Āmir al-Dimashqī**

He was one of the seven famous imams of *qirā’āt*, ‘Abdullāh ibn ‘Āmir al-Dimashqī. His recitation goes back to Abu al-Dardā’. He died in 118 AH (736).

### **Ibn ‘Āshūr**

He was Muḥammad al-Ṭāhir ibn ‘Āshūr. Born in 1296 AH (1879) in Tunisia. He was from the well-known scholars of Arabic language and *tafsīr* of his time. His famous *tafsīr Al-Taḥrīr wal-Tanwīr* is widely used and known for its focus on linguistic style and eloquence. He died in Tunisia in 1393 AH (1973).

### **Ibn ‘Aṭīyyah**

The famous scholar of *tafsīr* and author of *Al-Muḥarrar al-Wajīz fī Tafsīr al-Kitāb al-‘Azīz*. His name was ‘Abdul-Khāliq ibn Ghālib ibn ‘Aṭīyyah and considered to be a *muḥaqqiq* in this field. He was born in 481 AH (1088) in Andalusia. He died around 542 AH (1148).

### **Ibn Dhakwān**

He was ‘Abdullāh ibn Aḥmad ibn Bashīr, better known as Ibn Dhakwān and was one of the two narrators of Ibn ‘Āmir’s recitation. He was born in 173 AH (789) and died in 242 AH (856).

### **Ibn Ḥajar**

The great imam and *ḥāfiẓ*, Aḥmad ibn ‘Alī ibn Ḥajr al-‘Asqalānī. He was born in 773 AH (1372) in Cairo. He became from the leading scholars of his time and the Chief Justice of Egypt. He has works in *ḥadīth* including his famous explanation of *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī* called *Fatḥ al-Bārī*, history and *fiqh*, as well as Qur’ānic sciences. He died in 852 AH (1449).

### **Ibn Jammāz**

He was Sulaymān ibn Muslim, one of the two narrators of Abū Ja’far’s Qur’ān recitation. He died in 170 AH (786).

### **Ibn al-Jawzī**

Born in 508 AH (1178), ‘Abdur Raḥmān ibn ‘Alī, Abul Faraj ibn al-Jawzī was one of the great scholars of his time and the author of many works. He was from Baghdad and authored a famous work in *tafsīr* called *Zād al-Masīr fī ‘Ilm al-Tafsīr*. He died in Baghdad in 663 AH (1265)

### **Ibn al-Jazarī**

He was the famous scholar of *qirā’āt* and other sciences, Muḥammad ibn Muḥammad al-‘Umrī, more famously known as Ibn al-Jazarī. He was born in Damascus in 751 AH (1350). His most famous works are in the science of *Qirā’āt* including his poem on the 10 *qirā’āt*. He died in 833 AH (1429).

### **Ibn Juzayy**

He was Muḥammad ibn Aḥmad ibn Juzayy, born in 693 AH (1294) in Granada. He was from the leading scholars of his time, in particular in Qur'ānic sciences. He has a *tafsīr* book called *Al-Tashīl li 'Ulūm al-Tanzīl*. He died in 741 AH (1340).

### **Ibn Kathīr**

He was 'Abdullāh ibn Kathīr, the imam of *qirā'ah* in Makkah and one of the famous seven after whom a mode of recitation is named. He was born in 45 AH (665) and studied under Mujāhid. He died in 120 AH (738).

### **Ibn Kathīr**

He was Ismā'īl ibn 'Umar ibn Kathīr. He was born in 701 AH (1301) and died in 774 AH (1372). He was a scholar of *fiqh*, *ḥadīth*, history and *tafsīr*. Ibn Ḥajar said about him, "He was a scholar of *ḥadīth* and *fiqh*... His books spread across the lands during his lifetime and continue to benefit after his death." His *tafsīr*, *Tafsīr al-Qur'ān al-'Aẓīm* is from the most famous and popular works in this science, with an abridgement translated into English.

### **Ibn Mājah**

He was Muḥammad ibn Yazīd ibn Mājah, born in 209 AH (824) and one of the compilers of the six famous books of *ḥadīth*. He studied under the students of Mālik and Al-Layth ibn Sa'd. He died in 273 AH (887).

### **Ibn al-Mubārak**

He was ‘Abdullāh ibn al-Mubārak, the great scholar of his time. He was born in 118 AH (736) and spent his life travelling for knowledge. He was wealthy and generous with his wealth. Imam Aḥmad said, “No one sought knowledge more than Ibn al-Mubārak during his lifetime.” He died in 181 AH (797).

### **Ibn al-Qayyim**

He was the great scholar Muḥammad ibn Abū Bakr ibn Ayyūb, Shams al-Dīn ibn al-Qayyim al-Jawziyyah. He was born in 691 AH (1292). He was from the major students of Ibn Taymiyyah and became a great scholar of his time. His works are still widely used and referred to today. He died in Damascus in 751 AH (1350).

### **Ibn Rajab**

He was ‘Abdur Raḥmān ibn Aḥmad ibn Rajab al-Ḥanbalī. He was born in Baghdad in the year 736 AH (1335). He moved to Damascus at a young age and studied under the likes of Imam al-Nawawī. He died in 795 AH (1393).

### **Ibn Sa’dī**

He was ‘Abdur Raḥmān ibn Nāṣir al-Sa’dī, born in Qaṣīm, Saudi Arabia in 1307 AH (1890). One of the famous scholars of Saudi Arabia and teacher of Shaykh Ibn ‘Uthaymīn. He has a

summarised and easy to read one volume *tafsīr* known as *Tafsīr al-Sa'dī*. He died in 1376 AH (1956).

### **Ibn al-Sa'ib al-Kalbi**

He was Muḥammad ibn al-Sā'ib al-Kalbī from the early scholars. He lived in Kufah and was known for his *tafsīr*, but is generally considered to be a weak narrator in *ḥadīth*. He died in 146 AH (763).

### **Ibn Sīrīn**

He was the great and illustrious scholar of his era, Muḥammad ibn Sīrīn. His father was the free slave of Anas ibn Mālik and he himself became from his greatest students, leading his *janāzah*. He was born towards the end of the reign of 'Umar and met a number of the Companions. He died in 110 AH (729).

### **Ibn Taymiyyah**

Shaykh al-Islam, the famous imam, Aḥmad ibn 'Abdul-Ḥalīm, Taqiyy ul-Dīn, Abul-'Abbās ibn Taymiyyah. He was born in 661 AH (1263) in Ḥarrān and then moved to Damascus, and died in 728 AH (1328). He was known for his revival of the classical texts and following the way of the early generations. He excelled in multiple sciences and authored many works. He was imprisoned in 726 AH (1326) unjustly and would die in prison.

### **Ibn Wardān**

He was ʿĪsā ibn Wardān, one of the two narrators of Abū Jaʿfar’s Qur’ān recitation. He died in 160 AH (776).

### **Ibn Zayd**

He was ʿAbdur Raḥmān ibn Zayd ibn Aslam who died in the year 182 AH (798). He was from the scholars of *tafsīr* from the third generation. His narrations are often mentioned in the books of *tafsīr* such as by ʿAbdur Razzāq and al-Ṭabarī.

### **Idrīs**

He was Idrīs ibn ʿAbdul Karīm, one of the two narrators of Khalaf’s Qur’ān recitation. He died in 292 AH (905).

### **ʿIkrimah**

The famous scholar of *tafsīr* and free slave of Ibn ʿAbbās. His full name was ʿIkrimah ibn ʿAbdullāh and he was born in the year 25 AH (645). He narrated from a number of Companions and had hundreds of students. Al-Shaʿbī said, “There is no one remaining more knowledgeable about the Qur’ān than ʿIkrimah.” He died in 105 AH (723).

### **Ishāq ibn Rāhawayh**

He was from the great scholars of his generation. He was born in 161 AH (778) and was from Khurasān. He taught the likes of Imam Aḥmad, al-Bukhārī and Muslim. Imam Aḥmad said about him, “No one crossed the bridge from Khurasān like him and he has no peer in Iraq.” He died in 238 AH (853).

## **Ishāq**

He was Ishāq ibn Ibrāhīm, one of the two narrators of Khalaf’s Qur’ān recitation. He died in 286 AH (899).

## **J**

### **Al-Jaṣṣāṣ**

Born in 305 AH (918), he was Aḥmad ibn ‘Alī al-Rāzī, Abū Bakr al-Jaṣṣāṣ, from the great scholars of the Ḥanafī *madh-hab* of his time. He resided in Baghdad and has a book deducing *fiqh* rulings from the Qur’ān called, *Aḥkām al-Qur’ān*. He died in 370 AH (981).

## **K**

### **Khalaf**

He was Khalaf ibn Hishām, one of the two narrators of Ḥamzah’s Qur’ān recitation. He was born in 150 AH (767) and also studied under Imam Mālik. He died in 229 AH (843) in

Baghdad. Khalaf is also an imam of Qur'ān recitation in his own right, and is one of the three imams who make up the ten *qirā'āt*.

### **Khallād**

He was Khallād ibn Khālīd, one of the two narrators of Ḥamzah's Qur'ān recitation. He died in 220 AH (835).

### **Al-Kisā'ī**

The famous scholar of Arabic grammar and one of the seven imams of the seven *qirā'āt* of the Qur'ān. His name was 'Alī ibn Ḥamzah al-Kisā'ī. He died in 189 AH (805). His recitation goes back to the Companion Ibn Mas'ūd amongst others.

## **M**

### **Makkī ibn Abī Ṭālib**

He was Makkī ibn Abī Ṭālib, from the scholars of Andalusia. He was born in 355 AH (966) and died in 437 AH (1045). He was a leading scholar of Qur'ānic sciences. He has a work in *tafsīr* called *Al-Hidāyah ilā Bulūgh al-Nihāyah*.

### **Mālik ibn Anas**



One of the four famous imams, he was Mālik ibn Anas ibn Mālik, titled the Imam of Dār al-Hijrah. He was born in 93 AH (712) and was from the foremost scholars of his time. He died in Madīnah in the year 179 AH (795).

### **Al-Māwardī**

The famous scholar and author of *tafsīr*, ‘Alī ibn Muḥammad al-Māwardī. He was born in 364 AH (974) in Basrah. He was known as a scholar of *fiqh* and *tafsīr* and became a judge. His *tafsīr* book is *Al-Nukat wal-‘Uyun*, also known as *Tafsīr al-Māwardī*. He died in 450 AH (1058).

### **Muḥammad Rashīd Riḍā**

He was Muḥammad Rashīd ibn ‘Alī Riḍā. He was born in 1282 AH (1865). He lived in Syria and Egypt and was the editor of the magazine, *Al-Manār*. He wrote a *tafsīr* book in 12 volumes. He died in 1354 AH (1935).

### **Mujāhid ibn Jabar**

From the students of the Companions. His *kunyah* was Abul-Ḥajjāj al-Makhzūmī, the free slave of Al-Sā’ib ibn al-Sā’ib. He was born in 21 AH (642) and died around 104 AH (722). He narrated from ‘Alī, Sa’d ibn Abū Waqqāṣ, Ibn Mas’ūd, Ibn ‘Umar and Ibn ‘Abbās. His students include ‘Aṭṭā’, ‘Ikrimah, Qatādah and many others. He is considered to be amongst the most knowledgeable scholars of *tafsīr* of his generation. He covered *tafsīr* with Ibn

‘Abbās three times stopping at every verse and asking about it. Sufyān al-Thawrī said, “If Mujahid’s *tafsīr* comes to you, it’s enough.” Ibn Taymiyyah said, “This is why al-Shāfi’ī and al-Bukhārī and others relied on his *tafsīr*.”

## **Muqātil**

He was Muqātil ibn Sulaymān, the famous commentator of the Qur’ān from the early generations of Muslims. He died in 150 AH (767). He is generally considered a weak narrator of *ḥadīth* but an expert in *tafsīr*. Imam al-Dhahabī said, “...he was weak in *ḥadīth* despite being a vessel of knowledge and an ocean in *tafsīr*.” His complete *tafsīr* is from the earliest surviving.

## **Muslim**

The compiler of the second most authentic compilation of *ḥadīth*, he was Muslim ibn al-Ḥajjāj ibn Muslim al-Naysāburī. He was born in 206 AH (821) and died in 261 AH (875). He studied under the likes of Imam Aḥmad and al-Bukhārī.

## **N**

## **Nāfi’**

He was Nāfi’ ibn ‘Abdur Raḥmān, one of the seven imams of *qirā’āt* and lived in Madīnah. Imam Mālik said, “Nāfi’ is the imam of the people in recitation.” He died in 169 AH (785).

### **Al-Naḥḥās**

He was Aḥmad ibn Muḥammad, Abū Ja'far al-Naḥḥās. Originally from Egypt, he was a scholar of Arabic language and grammar. He wrote books on Qur'ān with a special emphasis on the language and grammar. He died in 338 AH (950).

### **Al-Nakha'ī**

He was Ibrāhīm ibn Yazīd, born in 46 AH (666) and died in 96 AH (715). From the great students of the Companions and known as the Jurist of Iraq. Imam al-Sha'bī said upon his death, "By Allah, he left behind no one like himself."

### **Al-Nāsā'ī**

He was one of the compilers of the famous six *ḥadīth* books, Aḥmad ibn Shu'ayb ibn 'Alī al-Nāsā'ī. He was born in 215 AH (830) and studied under the like of Iṣḥāq ibn Rāhawayh. He died in in Palestine in 303 AH (915).

## **Q**

### **Qālūn**

He was 'Īsā ibn Maynā ibn Wardān, better known as Qālūn, one of the two narrators of Imam Nāfi's recitation. He was born in 120 AH (738) and studied with Nāfi' for 20 years. He died in 220 AH (835) in Madīnah.

### **Al-Qāsimī**

He was Jamāl al-Dīn ibn Muḥammad al-Qāsimī. Born in 1283 AH (1866) in Damascus. From the leading scholars of his time in Syria. His book in *tafsīr* is called, *Maḥāsīn al-Ta'wīl* and is also known as *Tafsīr al-Qāsimī* and is 17 volumes long. He died in 1332 AH (1914).

### **Qatādah**

The famous scholar and commentator of Qur'ān, Qatādah ibn Dī'āmah al-Baṣrī. He was born in 61 AH (680). He mastered a number of sciences and was known for his exemplary memory. His *tafsīr* commentary is widely used by all who came after him. He died in 118 AH (736).

### **Qunbul**

He was Muḥammad ibn 'Abdur Raḥmān, better known as Qunbul, one of the two narrators of the recitation of Ibn Kathīr. He was born in 195 AH (810) and died in 291 AH (904).

### **Al-Qurṭubī**

He was the great scholar and well known *mufasssir*, Muḥammad ibn Aḥmad ibn Abū Bakr al-Qurṭubī. He came from Andalusia and would later settle in Egypt. His *tafsīr*, *Jāmi' Aḥkam al-Qur'ān wal-Mubayyin limā Taḍammanahu min al-Sunnah wa Āy al-Qur'ān* better known as *Tafsīr al-Qurṭubī* is one of the most famous and widely used works of *tafsīr* in the world today.

## R

### Al-Rāzī

He was Muḥammad ibn 'Umar ibn al-Ḥasan, Fakhr al-Dīn al-Rāzī. Born in Rayy in the year 544 AH (1150) and died in 606 AH (1210). Studied the religious sciences and as well as secular sciences such as philosophy. His *tafsīr*, *Asrār al-Tanzīl wa Anwār al-Ta'wīl* is known for its eloquence and focus on language. His *tafsīr* is often mixed with philosophy and rhetoric which has led to errors.

### Rawḥ

He was Rawḥ ibn 'Abdul Mu'min, one of the two narrators of Ya'qūb's Qur'ān recitation. He died in 233 AH (847).

### Ruways

He was Muḥammad ibn al-Mutawakkil, one of the two narrators of Ya'qūb's Qur'ān recitation. He died in 238 AH (852).

## S

### **Sa'īd ibn Jubayr**

The great scholar of the *tabi'ūn*, born in 45 AH (665). He studied under the likes of Ibn 'Abbās and Ibn 'Umar. He is often quoted in *tafsīr* and is an authority amongst the *tabi'ūn* in this field. He was killed by Al-Ḥajjaj in 95 AH (714).

### **Sayyid Quṭb**

Born in 1906 in Egypt, Sayyid Quṭb was an intellectual and thinker. He studied in Cairo and worked as a journalist. He became a member and leader of the group Ikhwān al-Muslimūn. He was imprisoned after the assassination of the Egyptian president Jamāl 'Abdul Nāṣir. He died in 1966 by execution. His book in *tafsīr* is *Fī Zilāl al-Qur'ān* which contains many of his reflections more so than classical *tafsīr* narrations.

### **Al-Sha'bī**

The famous student of the Companions, his full name was 'Āmir ibn Sharāḥīl al-Sha'bī and he was born in 19 AH (640). He was from the great scholars of his time, and it is said he met hundreds of Companions. He died in Kufah in 103 AH (721).

### **Al-Shāfi'ī**

One of the four famous imams, Muḥammad ibn Idrīs ibn al-‘Abbās al-Shāfi‘ī. He was born in 150 AH (767) in Palestine and was raised in Makkah, and his lineage was from the tribe of Quraysh. He studied under the great scholars of his time including Imam Mālik, and taught some of the great scholars of his time including Imam Aḥmad. He settled towards the end of his life in Egypt and died there in 204 AH (820).

### **Al-Shāṭibī**

He was the great scholar of Qur’ān and *qirā’āt*, Al-Qāsim ibn Fayyūrah al-Shāṭibī. He was born in 538 AH (1144). He came from Andalusia and became famous for his poem on the *qirā’āt* known as the *Shāṭibiyyah* which all who came after him relied upon in learning the 7 *qirā’āt*. He died in 590 AH (1194).

### **Al-Shawkānī**

He was Muḥammad ibn ‘Alī al-Shawkānī, born in 1173 AH in Shawkān and grew up in Ṣan’ā’ where he studied until he became the imam of Yemen. He died in the year 1250 AH. He authored many works in different Islamic sciences. His *tafsīr*, *Faṭḥ al-Qadīr* combines between narrations and deducing benefits and rulings. He often relies on previous *tafsīrs* such as Ibn ‘Aṭiyyah and al-Qurṭubī.

### **Al-Shinqīṭī**

He was Muḥammad al-Amīn ibn Muḥammad al-Mukhtār al-Shinqīṭī. He was born in 1325 AH (1907) in Mauritania and was from the great scholars of the past century. He later moved to Saudi Arabia and lived in Riyadh and then Madīnah where he taught many of the great scholars. His work on *tafsīr*, *Aḍwā' al-Bayān fī Tafsīr al-Qur'ān bil-Qur'ān* in 10 volumes focuses on exegesis of the Qur'ān with the Qur'ān. He died in Makkah in 1393 AH (1973).

### **Şiddīq Ḥasan Khān**

He was born in 1248 AH (1832) and studied under the scholars of India and Yemen. He has a *tafsīr* book called *Faṭḥ al-Bayān*. He died in 1357 AH (1938).

### **Shu'bah**

Born in 82 AH (701), Shu'bah ibn al-Ḥajjāj was from the scholars of the third generation. He resided in Basrah and was from the earliest scholars to write in *ḥadīth*. Sufyān al-Thawrī said, "Shu'bah is the leader of the believers in *ḥadīth*." He died in 160 AH (777).

### **Shu'bah**

He was one of the two narrators of the Qur'ān recitation of 'Āṣim. His name was Shu'bah ibn 'Ayyāsh. Born in 95 AH (713), he was praised by the scholars for his proficiency in Qur'ān recitation and died in 193 AH (809).

### **Al-Suddiyy**



He was Ismā'īl ibn 'Abdur-Raḥmān known as Al-Suddiyy al-Kabīr, lived in Kufah and it is said met Anas ibn Mālik and Ibn 'Abbās. He is well known for his narrations in *tafsīr* and his commentary from the early generations. He died in 128 AH (745).

### **Sufyān al-Thawī**

The great scholar of his generation, Sufyān ibn Sa'īd al-Thawrī. He was born in 97 AH (716) and is known as the leader of the believers in *ḥadīth*. He was born in Kufah but travelled to many countries and died in Basrah. He has many narrations in *tafsīr* and is an authority. He died in 161 AH (778).

### **Sufyān ibn 'Uyaynah**

The great scholar of *ḥadīth*, *fiqh* and *tafsīr*. Born in Kufah in the year 107 AH (725) but latter settled in Makkah. He was a teacher to the likes of Imam al-Shāfi'ī and Imam Aḥmad. He made *ḥajj* 70 times and died in 198 AH (814).

### **Al-Sūsī**

He was Ṣāliḥ ibn Ziyād al-Sūsī. He was born in 173 AH (789) and was one of the two narrators of 'Abū 'Amr al-Baṣrī's recitation. He died in 261 AH (874).

### **Al-Suyūṭī**

He was ‘Abdur-Raḥmān ibn Abū Bakr, Jalāl al-Dīn al-Suyūṭī. He was born in 849 AH (1445). He was a prolific scholar of *ḥadīth*, history, *tafsīr* and other sciences. He travelled across the Muslim world but later settled in Cairo and dedicated himself to writing. He has a famous book in the Science of Qur’ān, *Al-Itqān fī ‘Ulūm al-Qur’ān* and co-wrote the famous *Tafsīr al-Jalālayn*.

## T

### Al-Ṭabarī

His full name was Muḥammad ibn Jarīr ibn Yazīd al-Ṭabarī, Abū Ja’far. Born in Baghdad in 224 AH (839) and died in 310 AH (923). One of the great scholars of his time in many sciences including *ḥadīth*. He is especially well known for his *tafsīr*, but also authored books in history and *fiqh*. His *tafsīr*, *Jāmi’ al-Bayān fī Tafsīr al-Qur’ān* is considered to be the first reference point in this science and in particular due to his focus on *tafsīr* narrations from the Companions and early scholars. Al-Nawawī said, “There is nothing like Ibn Jarīr’s book in *tafsīr*.”

### Ṭāwūs

He was Ṭāwūs ibn Kaysān, born in 33 AH (653). He was the *shaykh* and *muftī* of Yemen from the *tabi’ūn*. He was famous for *tafsīr* who passed away in Makkah during the *ḥajj* season in 106 AH (724).

### **Al-Tha'labī**

He was Aḥmad ibn Muḥammad ibn Ibrāhīm al-Tha'labī, from the scholars of *ḥadīth* and *tafsīr*. He studied under scholars such as Ibn Khuzaymah and authored a work in *tafsīr* called, *Al-Kashf wal-Bayān 'an Tafsīr al-Qur'ān* which is more famously known as *Tafsīr al-Tha'labī*. He died in 427 AH (1035).

## **U**

### **'Ubayd ibn 'Umayr**

'Ubayd ibn 'Umayr ibn Qatādah al-Laythī, born in the lifetime of the Prophet (ﷺ). He narrated from the likes of 'Umar and Alī. He was from the scholars of his time in Makkah. He died in 73 AH (692).

### **Ubayy ibn Ka'b**

The famous and illustrious companion from the Anṣār, who passed away in the year 30 AH (651). He was from the most knowledgeable of the companions and particularly in Qur'ān, and from the scribes of revelation.

## **W**

### **Wahb ibn Munabbih**

He was Wahb ibn Munabbih from the great scholars of Yemen. He was born in 34 AH (654) and was from the *tabi'ūn*. He was made the judge of Yemen by 'Umar ibn 'Abdul-'Azīz. He died around 114 AH (732).

### **Al-Wāḥidī**

He was 'Alī ibn Aḥmad ibn Muḥammad al-Wāḥidī. He was born in Naysābūr and was known for his knowledge of tafsīr and Arabic language. He has a number of works in tafsīr including, *Al-Basīṭ*. He died in 468 AH (1076).

### **Wakī'**

He was Wakī' ibn al-Jarrāḥ, Abū Sufyān, from the great scholars of Iraq in his time. He was born in 129 AH (746) and studied under the likes of Imam al-Awzā'ī, and in turn taught the likes of Imam al-Shāfi'ī and Imam Aḥmad. He died in 197 AH (812).

### **Warsh**

His name was 'Uthman ibn Sa'īd, better known as Warsh. He was born in Egypt in the year 110 AH (728) and became one of the two narrators of Imam Nāfi's recitation. He died in Egypt in 197 AH (812).

## **Y**

## **Ya'qūb**

He was one of the three imams who make up the ten *qirā'āt*. His names was Ya'qūb ibn Ishāq. He studied under the likes of Shu'bah. He was born in 117 AH (735) and died in 205 AH (820).

## **Z**

### **Al-Zamakhsharī**

He was Abul Qāsim Maḥmūd ibn 'Umar al-Zamakhsharī. He was born in the year 467 AH (1075) and died in 538 AH (1144). His work in *tafsīr* is called *Al-Kashāf* and is known for its focus on language, grammar and eloquence. His creed was Mu'tazilī which manifests itself in his *tafsīr*.

### **Al-Zarkashī**

He was Muḥammad ibn Bahadūr al-Zarkashī. Born in 745 AH (1344) in Egypt. He has a famous work in Qur'ānic sciences called *Al-Burhān fī 'Ulūm al-Qur'ān*. He died in Egypt in 794 AH (1392).

### **Zayd ibn Thābit**

The famous and illustrious Companion from the Anṣār, born before the migration in Madīnah. He was from the scribes of revelation and from the most proficient amongst the

Companions in Qur'ān recitation and memorisation. He was involved in the compilation of the Qur'ān both in the time of Abū Bakr and 'Uthmān. He died in 45 AH (665).

### **Al-Zuhrī**

He was the famous and leading scholar of his time, Muḥammad ibn Muslim ibn Shihāb al-Zuhrī. Born in 85 AH (678). He was from the great scholars of Madīnah who some credited as the first to compile in *ḥadīth*. He has many narrations in *tafsīr*. He died in 124 AH (742).