

# The Prophet's Battles, Armies and Expeditions

By **Imâm ibn al-Qayyim al-Jawziyyah *rahimahullâh***  
From "*Zâd al-Ma'âd fî Hadyi Khayri-l 'Tbâd*"

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

All of the Prophet's *Ghazwat*, *Bu'uth* and *Saraya* [1] occurred after the *Hijrah*, within a span of ten years. There were either twenty-seven *Ghazwat*, or twenty-five, or twenty-nine. The Prophet *sallallâhu 'alayhi wa sallam* had to fight in nine battles, *Badr*, *'Uhud*, *al-Khandaqh*, *Quraidhah*, *al-Mustaliqh*, *Khaybar*, *al-Fath*' (Conquering of Makkah), *'Hunayn* and *Tâ'if*. It was said that the Prophet *sallallâhu 'alayhi wa sallam* also fought against *Banî an-Nadhîr* (a Jewish tribe) and at *al-Ghabah* and *Wadi al-Qura*, which was a suburb of *Khaybar*.

As for the *Saraya* of the Prophet *sallallâhu 'alayhi wa sallam* and the armies he sent, they numbered close to sixty. There were seven major battles: *Badr*, *'Uhud*, *al-Khandaqh*, *Khaybar*, *al-Fath*', *'Hunayn* and *Tabuk*. [2] Several parts of the Qur'ân mentioned these major *Ghazwat*. For instance, *Sûrah al-Anfâl* (chapter 8) was revealed about *Ghazwat Badr*, while the last part of *Sûrah al-Imrân* (chapter 3) was about *Ghazwat 'Uhud*, from Allâh's statement,

**"And (remember) when you [Muhammad *sallallâhu 'alayhi wa sallam*] left your household in the morning to post the believers at their stations for the battle" [3:121],**

until just before the end of the *Sûrah*. The beginning of *Sûrah al-Ahzâb* (chapter 33) was revealed about the battles of *al-Khandaqh*, *Quraydhah* and *Khaybar*. *Sûrah al-Hashr* (59) was revealed about *Banî an-Nadhîr*, *al-Fath*' (48) about *al-Hudaibiyyah* and the battle of *Khaybar*. The conquering of Makkah was mentioned indirectly in *Sûrah al-Fath*' and directly in *Sûrah an-Nasr* (110). He *sallallâhu 'alayhi wa sallam* was wounded during the battle of *'Uhud*. [3] The angels fought alongside the Prophet *sallallâhu 'alayhi wa sallam* during the battles of *Badr* [4] and *'Hunayn*. They also descended during the battle of *al-Khandaqh* [5], where they shook the *Mushriks* [surrounding *Madînah*] and defeated them. During that battle, the Prophet *sallallâhu 'alayhi wa sallam* threw a handful of sand at the faces of the *Mushriks* (Polytheists) and they fled [without a fight]. [6]

The Prophet *sallallâhu 'alayhi wa sallam* won decisively in two battles, *Badr* and *Hunain*. He used *al-Manjaniq* (mongonel, or catapult) during on battle, *at-Tâ'if*, and took cover behind a trench during *Ghazwat al-Khandaqh*, also known as *Ghazwat al-Ahzâb*. Salmân al-Farsî *radiallâhu 'anhu* suggested that the trench be dug in that battle.

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## Footnotes

[1] '*Ghazwat*', pl. for '*Ghazwah*', means battles. The battles that the Prophet *sallallâhu 'alayhi wa sallam* led himself were called, '*Ghazwat*', whereas the armies and expeditions he sent while remaining behind are called, '*Bu'uth*', pl. for, '*Ba'th*', and '*Saraya*', pl. for, '*Sariyyah*'.

[2] All of which are mentioned in detail later on in, *Zâd al-Ma'âd*.

[3] Al-Bukhârî (3767) narrated that Sahl bin as-Sa'idi was asked about how the wound of the Prophet *sallallâhu 'alayhi wa sallam* was treated, and he replied, "**Alî used to bring water in his shield and Fâtimah (the Prophet's daughter and 'Alî's wife) used to wash the blood off his face. Then straw mat was burnt and the wound was filled with it.**"

[4] Al-Bukhârî (3694) narrated that 'Abdullâh ibn 'Abbâs *radiallâhu 'anhu* said that the Prophet *sallallâhu 'alayhi wa sallam* said on the day of *Badr*, "**Here is Jibrîl, holding the head of his horse and wearing war armours.**" Allâh sent the angels to strengthen their hearts of the believers and to aid them.

[5] Shaykh 'Irfân said, "**Allâh said in Sûrah al-Ahzâb (33:9), 'O you who believe! Remember Allâh's Favour to you, when there came against you hosts, and We sent against them a wind and forces that you saw not [angels during the battle of Al-Ahzâb (the Confederates, *Ghazwat al-Khandaq* (in 5 AH)]. And Allâh is Ever All-Seer of what you do.'**"

[6] Al-Bukhârî (2716) and Muslim (3277) narrated that Allâh's Apostle *sallallâhu 'alayhi wa sallam* asked for Allâh's wrath upon the *Ahzâb*, saying: "**O, Allâh, Revealer of the Holy Book, and the One swift at reckoning! O, Allâh, Defeat the confederates. O, Allâh, Defeat them and shake them.**"