



Second question from Fatwa no.(6837)

Q 2: If a person catches up with the congregational Salah while the Imam is reciting Qur'an after Al-Fatihah in any Salah (Prayer) prescribed to be performed out loud such as Maghrib prayer, Should this person recite Al-Fatihah first or not? According to what Allah (May He be Exalted) says: (So, when the Qur'ân is recited, listen to it, and be silent) And if the person catches up with the Imam while he is still standing, and as the person recites (The Ayah) Al-Hamdulillah Rab-il-`Alamin, then the Imam offers Takbir (for Ruku` [Prostration]), should the person follow the Imam or complete the recitation?

A: Reciting Al-Fatihah is obligatory for the Imam , the person praying alone and the Ma'mum (person led in prayer) in Jahr (out loud) or Secretly pronounced prayers, due to the general evidence of reciting Al-Fatihah in Salah. Whoever joins the congregational Salah and offers Takbir with the Imam should recite it (Al-Fatihah), but if the Imam offers Ruku` before the person completes its recitation, they should follow the Imam and in this case, and the Rak`ah will suffice them. Besides, whoever fully catches up with the Imam in a state of Ruku`, this will also suffice them and they are not obliged to read Al-Fatihah according to the most correct opinion of Scholars. In this case, reciting Al-Fatihah is not obligatory as a person will not be able to recite it. This is because of the famous Hadith

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of [Abi Bakrah](#) that is narrated in Sahih [Al-Bukhari](#) .

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and companions!

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