



The second question of Fatwa no. 2578

Q2: They say that it is not obligatory on the Bedouins, who live on the outskirts of towns and villages, to travel long distances to perform the Jumu`ah (Friday) Prayer, if they have an Imam (someone who can lead the congregational Prayer), they can offer it in their tents.

A: Jumu`ah Prayer is obligatory on every free male Mukallaf (person meeting the conditions to be held legally accountable for their actions) who lives in a house made of stones, reeds, and or anything similar, that they do not migrate from in either winter or summer; the name is the same even if the buildings are scattered. Shaykh Al-Islam Ibn Taymiyyah (may Allah be merciful with him) said, "Every group of people inhabiting buildings that are close together, from which they do not migrate in summer or winter, should perform Jumu`ah Prayer, if their homes are built of what is customary for them, such as loam, wood, reeds, palm branches, with ceilings, and other than that. The parts of the house and the material have no effect on this, rather it is whether they are stable residents, as opposed to those who live in tents and wander across the country, moving from place to place, taking their homes with them when they move. This is the opinion of the Jumhur (dominant majority of scholars). However, if the Bedouins inhabit cities and villages are near the place

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where Jumu`ah Prayer is held, so they can hear the Call [to Salah] without any problem, then it is obligatory on them to attend the Jumu`ah Prayer with the people. If they are far away and cannot hear the Call, even if there is nothing to prevent it, this needs further discussion. If they are resident in the place they are, and do not migrate from it either in winter or summer, then it is obligatory on them to establish Jumu`ah Prayer where they are, the same as other villagers. If this is not the case, then they fall under the ruling of the nomadic Bedouin for whom there is no obligation to offer Jumu`ah Prayer, and they should offer Zhuhr (Noon) Prayer instead, as on any other day. This is the opinion of most of the scholars, and the one in accordance with the legal evidence.

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

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