



An Text Study and Appreciation of Imam Ibn Katsir's Work: *Kitab Al Bidayah Wa An Nihayah*

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Abstract

Al-Bidayah wa An-Nihayah is one of Ibn Kathir's monumental works covering the history of mankind from the creation of Adam to his time. This book is an encyclopedia of Islamic history written in an interesting and detailed writing style. In the study of the text of this book, several interesting things can be found, including: Ibn Kathir's critical and objective writing methodology in presenting historical events. He tried to avoid the element of subjectivity by referring to credible primary sources. The breadth of the scope of the discussion is not only limited to the history of Islam, but also includes the history of previous peoples such as the Prophets, the Romans, Persians, and others. Ibn Kathir's in-depth analysis of various historical events and their contextualization with the situation of his time. Ibn Kathir's writing style is communicative so that it is easily understood by the reader. The study of the text of this book can provide a comprehensive understanding of the history of mankind, especially from an Islamic perspective. In addition, this book can also be used as an important reference for the study of Islamic history.

Keywords: Ibnu Kasir; *Al-Bidayah Wa An-Nihayah*; Text study

Abstrak

Kitab *Al-Bidayah wa An-Nihayah* adalah salah satu karya monumental Ibnu Katsir yang mencakup sejarah umat manusia sejak penciptaan Adam hingga zamannya. Kitab ini merupakan ensiklopedia sejarah Islam yang ditulis dengan gaya penulisan yang menarik dan detail. Dalam kajian teks kitab ini, dapat ditemukan beberapa hal menarik, di antaranya: Metodologi penulisan Ibnu Katsir yang kritis dan objektif dalam menyajikan peristiwa sejarah. Ia berusaha menghindari unsur subjektivitas dengan merujuk pada sumber-sumber primer yang kredibel. Keluasan cakupan pembahasan yang tidak hanya terbatas pada sejarah Islam, tetapi juga mencakup sejarah umat terdahulu seperti Nabi-nabi, bangsa Romawi, Persia, dan lain-lain. Analisis Ibnu Katsir yang mendalam terhadap berbagai peristiwa sejarah serta kontekstualisasinya dengan situasi pada masanya. Gaya penulisan Ibnu Katsir yang komunikatif sehingga mudah dipahami oleh pembaca. Kajian teks kitab ini dapat memberikan pemahaman yang komprehensif mengenai sejarah umat manusia, khususnya dari perspektif Islam. Selain itu, kitab ini juga dapat dijadikan referensi penting bagi pengkajian sejarah Islam.

Kata Kunci: Ibnu Kasir; *Al-Bidayah Wa An-Nihayah*; Kajian teks

INTRODUCTION

The study of historiography makes an important contribution to understanding the cultural and intellectual dynamics of Islamic societies in the past.¹ The tendency of the emergence of character themes and how many of these works have emerged, must be understood as an ideological character that places the importance of the position of figures in Islamic history.² The dynamic development of Muslims has been largely reconstructed by historians and historians. On the one hand, historians reconstruct things related to the uniqueness of Islamic historicity in terms of religiosity and eschatology. The reconstruction is sourced from its authentic facts (*atsar*) (*tasdiqallima bainahum*) by using patterns of historiographic study. They also carry out reconstruction using the methodology of historical science (*al-ilm al-tariikhiyyah*), which is based on heuristic (source of facts), criticism (simplification and classification), and interpretation (interpretation and generalization).

Like the history book authored by Imam Ibn Kasir namely the book Al-Bidayah, this book has a great contribution to the development of Islamic Historiography. The book of tafsir translated Kitab Al Bidayah wa An-Nihayah by Imam Al Hafidz Ibn Katsir (may Allah have mercy on him) is one of the best books throughout the history of Islam that is the foundation for writing the history of Islam and the Arab nation. This translated book al bidayah wa an-nihayah became the entrance to various decades of historical writing, where this book al bidayah wa an-nihayah was written at the end of the 8th century Hijriyah.³ In addition, this book of al-bidayah is the work of a scholar who is a hadith expert who understands hadith, who is able to clarify the position of hadith and write various basics of hadith science.⁴ The book of Al-Bidayah wan Nihayah begins with a discussion of the creation of the universe, the sky, the earth, angels, the first man, as well as the stories of the prophets and the previous people until the last Prophet, the Prophet Muhammad Saw.

In this book, the beginning of man who became the caliph on earth, the stories of the prophets, and the previous ummah are described in accordance with the explanation of the Qur'an and the sahih hadiths. Imam Ibn Kathir (may Allah have mercy on him) also discussed the khabar gharib (rare), munkar and khabar originating from the people of Israel. The next step is to affirm the history of the life journey of the Prophet Muhammad, -Sholallahu Alaihi Wassalam- and the history of the development of Islam until the time of his life Imam Ibn Kathir-Rahimahulloh (in the 8th century Hijri). Then he turned to the discussion of fitnah (the disaster that befell mankind), the signs of the Day of Judgment, and various conditions of life in the afterlife.

Previous research on the Study of Texts and Appreciation of the Works of Imam Ibn Katsir: Kitab Al-Bidayah wa An-Nihayah has been carried out a lot, especially in the field of Islamic

¹ Shahzad Bashir, "2. ON ISLAMIC TIME: RETHINKING CHRONOLOGY IN THE HISTORIOGRAPHY OF MUSLIM SOCIETIES," *History and Theory* 53, no. 4 (Desember 2014): 519-44, <https://doi.org/10.1111/hith.10729>.

² Sarfaroz Niyozov dan Nadeem Memon, "Islamic Education and Islamization: Evolution of Themes, Continuities and New Directions," *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs* 31, no. 1 (Maret 2011): 5-30, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13602004.2011.556886>.

³ Sara Hassan, *Challenges faced by women-Education, Career and Identity*. (Blue Rose Publishers, 2020).

⁴ Rasheed Abdulganiy, "ACADEMICIZING THE HADITH: COMPREHENSIVE EXPLORATION OF PROPHETIC GUIDANCE IN ADDRESSING HUMAN MULTI-DIMENSIONAL CHALLENGES," diakses 26 November 2024, <https://gsu.edu.ng/home/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/5th-Inaugural-Lecture-of-Prof.-Rasheed-Abdulganiy-Edited-2.pdf>.

history and interpretation of the Qur'an. Some of the research focuses on the analysis of the methodology used by Ibn Katsir in compiling this monumental book, which includes a chronological and thematic approach in describing the history of the creation of the world until the end of time.⁵ As one of the leading scholars of the 8th century Hijri, Ibn Katsir's contribution through this book is often studied in the context of the validity of the historical sources he uses, such as the hadiths of the prophet, the narration of the companions, and the interpretation of verses of the Qur'an. Other studies appreciate the Kitab Al-Bidayah wa An-Nihayah as one of the reference works in understanding the narrative of Islamic history comprehensively. For example, the study of theological and eschatological perspectives in this book provides insight into how Ibn Kathir associated historical events with *maqāṣid syarī'ah* (sharia goals) in order to build the moral consciousness and faith of his readers. In addition, several studies also focus on the role of this book in developing the tradition of Islamic historical literature, which brings together aspects of historical documentation with spiritual values.

Ismail Albayrak, including Ibn Kathir's contribution in developing sanad-based historical methods. He highlights how Ibn Kathir used a chronological and critical approach to historical histories, including the history of Israiliyyat, in an attempt to filter out valid information.⁶ Mahardhika, also reviews Ibn Kathir's contribution in documenting Islamic history through the use of the Qur'an and hadith as the main basis of his historical narrative. This research appreciates Ibn Katsir's efforts in integrating tafsir with historiography, which makes his work relevant for historical and religious studies at the same time.⁷ Closer to the modern era, Pratama, examines the influence of Al-Bidayah wa An-Nihayah on the perception of Muslims about their own history. He shows how this work not only conveys history but also provides moral lessons for Muslims. Pratama also highlights how Ibn Kathir structured history very systematically, from the creation of the universe to the events of the end times.⁸

In the context of text studies, Shahzadi evaluates Ibn Katsir's approach to eschatological hadiths in Al-Bidayah wa An-Nihayah. He appreciated how Ibn Katsir connected historical events with a deep theological perspective, creating a narrative that was not only chronological but also had a spiritual dimension.⁹ Research by Abdulabbas, also touches on the important aspects of this work, especially in Ibn Kathir's discussion of leadership and the role of politics in Islamic

⁵ Muhammad Wafiq Muhammad Fauzi dan Mohamed Akhiruddin Ibrahim, "IBN KATHIR AND HIS METHOD IN APPROACHING AYAT AL-QURAN: SAMPLE FROM TAFSIR AL-QURAN AL-AZIM," *PENGAJIAN TAHFIZ AL-QURAN DAN AL-QIRAAT*, 34, diakses 26 November 2024, https://conference.uis.edu.my/natiq/images/ecib/ECIB_NATIQ_2024_v2.pdf#page=42.

⁶ Ismail Albayrak, "Qur'anic narrative and Isra'iliyyat in Western scholarship and in classical exegesis" (PhD Thesis, University of Leeds, 2000), <https://etheses.whiterose.ac.uk/507/>.

⁷ Muhammad Fajrul Mahardhika, Wantini Wantini, dan Andunrorma Alee, "Development Of Tafseer Of The Quran In Surah Al-Baqarah Verse 83 On Islamic Education In Indonesia," *ZAD Al-Mufassirin* 6, no. 1 (2024): 87-103, <https://jurnal.stiqzad.ac.id/index.php/zam/article/view/149>.

⁸ Sofyanto Raihan Pratama dkk., "Genealogy Magic in the Perspective of Mufassir Indonesia (QS. Al Baqarah (2): 102 Analysis Study)," *al-Afkar, Journal For Islamic Studies* 7, no. 2 (2024): 512-30, https://www.al-afkar.com/index.php/Afkar_Journal/article/view/1000.

⁹ Dr Abdul Ghaffar Shaheen Shahzadi, Muhammad Yasin Ayoub, dan Waqas Ali Haider, "Chronological Categorization of Prophetic Traditions in Hadith Sciences: An Analysis of Meccan and Medinan Narratives," *Remittances Review* 9, no. 2 (2024): 2206-23, <https://remittancesreview.com/menu-script/index.php/remittances/article/view/1677>.

history.¹⁰ He highlighted how Ibn Kathir presented a historical narrative that was not only descriptive but also normative, reflecting the Islamic political views of the time. Sulphey highlights Ibn Kather's attention to the spiritual dimension of historical events and how he links the history of Muslims with sharia principles.¹¹ Salman Faris appreciated the way Ibn Katsir combined historical facts with moral lessons that could build readers' awareness of faith.¹² This research emphasizes the importance of this work as a source of Islamic education that strengthens spiritual understanding through historical narratives.

More recent studies often link Ibn Katsir's contributions to the development of Islamic historiographic methodology, especially in assessing the validity of sanad (narrative paths) in historical contexts. These studies show that Al-Bidayah wa An-Nihayah is not only a collection of historical narratives, but also a representation of the integration of hadith, tafsir, and history in the Islamic scientific tradition. The findings from this previous study are an important basis for further exploration of the relevance of the book in answering the intellectual and spiritual challenges of Muslims in the modern era. In this book, it is really comprehensive about the history of Islam, which everyone's heart wants to study, its thirst is cured after seeing the various greatness of our history, this great Muslim who solves into history, who has been the leader of the world for several centuries, the history of Muslims has filled the world with the values of truth and justice, after injustice and deviance filled the world.

RESEARCH METHOD

The research methodology for this study uses a qualitative approach with a text analysis method.¹³ This research began with a literature study to collect data related to the Book of Al-Bidayah wa An-Nihayah by Imam Ibn Katsir, both from the original manuscript and translation. Primary data in the form of the content of the book will be analyzed in depth to identify the structure, theme, and approach used by Ibn Katsir in compiling historical narratives.¹⁴ Secondary data, such as scholarly commentaries and previous scholarly works that discuss the book, will be used to provide context and compare related views. The content analysis approach is used to explore narrative patterns, source selection, and the presentation of historical facts in this book. In this case, the focus of the analysis is directed to the use of the Qur'an, hadith, the narration of the Companions, and Israiliyyat, to understand how Ibn Kathir filtered and compiled information.

This study also uses historical methods to place this book in the context of the development of Islamic historiography in the 8th century Hijri, including the influence of the times and socio-political conditions on the writing of this book. In addition, this study applies the method of text criticism to evaluate the validity and authenticity of the sources used by Ibn Katsir. This approach

¹⁰ Ali Khudayer Abdulabbas, Toby C. Jones, dan Zakia Hassan Ibrahim, "The Prophet's Biography and Its Impact on Understanding and Documenting Early Islamic History," diakses 26 November 2024.

¹¹ M. M. Sulphey, "An Islamic Perspective of Workplace Rectitude," *Asian Journal of Business Ethics* 12, no. 2 (Desember 2023): 323-46, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13520-023-00176-3>.

¹² Salman Faris, "Exploring The Divine Message: Quranic Studies in The Context of Islamic Scholarship," *Dirasah International Journal of Islamic Studies* 1, no. 2 (2023): 111-25, <https://dirasah.pdtii.org/index.php/i/article/view/16>.

¹³ Matthew B. Miles dan A. Michael Huberman, *Qualitative data analysis: An expanded sourcebook* (sage, 1994).

¹⁴ John Gerring, "Qualitative Methods," *Annual Review of Political Science* 20, no. 1 (11 Mei 2017): 15-36, <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-polisci-092415-024158>.

helps to assess the contribution of Al-Bidayah wa An-Nihayah as one of the works that combines historiography with interpretation. In order to appreciate, interpretive methods are used to understand the moral, theological, and spiritual values conveyed through the historical narrative in this book. Thus, this study not only assesses the book from a historical point of view, but also in terms of its relevance to Islamic values.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Biography of Ibn Kathir

One of the scholars who is familiar to interpreters is Imam Ibn Katsir. Yes, Ibn Katsir is one of the scholars who is a very famous interpreter.¹⁵ He is one of the scholars who has a very important role behind the spread of the knowledge of Al-Quran interpretations until now.¹⁶ His opinions and ideas in the interpretation of the Qur'an are able to provide a pattern and perspective that is easy and easy to understand, so that anyone who reads the interpretation of his work will easily understand the content and content of the Quran. Not only in the field of interpretation, you also have an extraordinary date, namely the book Al-bidayah wa An nihayah. Ibn Kasir is Imaduddin Abul Fida' Ismail bin Uma bin Katsir bin Dau' bin Katsir Al-Qursyi Ad-Dimisyqi As-Shafi'. (Muhammad Husein Adz-Dzahabi, 1985. He was born in 701 Hijri (some say he was born in 700 AH) in a village called Majdal, southern Syria. Ibn Katsir died in the month of Sha'ban 774 AH. Little Ibn Katsir grew up as a child who had an unfortunate fate in his life.¹⁷ He grew up as an orphan, because his father, Shaykh Al-Khatib Syihabuddin Abu Hafs bin Katsir died in 703 AH, precisely when Ibn Katsir was two years old. Later he lived together with his mother and siblings. Little Ibn Katsir grew up as a child who had an unfortunate fate in his life. He grew up as an orphan, because his father, Shaykh Al-Khatib Syihabuddin Abu Hafs bin Katsir died in 703 AH, precisely when Ibn Katsir was two years old. Later he lived together with his mother and siblings.

In his tual intellect, Ibn Cashier learned a lot from several scholars, but before learning from others, Ibn Kathir had learned from his uncle from his uncle, yes, he could understand many things about science. He not only understands one term of scientific discourse, but can master and explore many sciences. This is as stated by Ahmad Muhammad Syakir in the book 'Umdatut Tafsir: "(Ibn Katsir) pursued knowledge from his uncles, the Banu Uqbah in Bashrah. Then he studied the book of Al-Bidayah in the madhhab of Imam Abu Hanifah, memorized the book Jumal (the science of nahwu) by Imam Az-Zajjaj, and also delved into the science of nahwu, Arabic, and other languages. He also memorized Arabic poems. Some of the scholars who have been Ibn Kasir

¹⁵ Nur Ad-Diina Shamsudin dan Ashinida Aladdin, "A Conceptual Paper on the Process of Understanding the Concept of HUBB (LOVE) in the Qur'an.," *GEMA Online Journal of Language Studies* 24, no. 1 (2024), http://journalarticle.ukm.my/23580/1/Gema%20Online_24_1_4.pdf.

¹⁶ Ghulam Mustafa Nukhba, "A Comprehensive Review of Comparative Interpretation of Holy Quran: Approaches, Methodologies, and Criteria for Establishing Plausible Interpretations," *International Journal Of Humanities Education and Social Sciences* 3, no. 2 (2023), <http://www.ijhess.com/index.php/ijhess/article/view/625>.

¹⁷ Jefferson Williams, "Mid-8th Century CE Seismic Sequences Along the Dead Sea Transform," *Annals of Geophysics* 67, no. 1 (2024): SE101–SE101,

teachers are Imam An-Nawawi.¹⁸ He also studied with Imam Taqiyuddin Al-Fazari, Imam Burhanuddin Al-Fazari, and Imam Kamaluddin ibn Qadhi Syuhbah. Under the guidance of the famous scholar, Ibn Katsir managed to get a lot of religious knowledge, even managed to memorize the book *At-Tanbih* by Imam As-Shirazi.¹⁹ In addition to some of the famous scholars above, Ibn Katsir also studied with other well-known scholars. Among them were Imam Al-Hafiz Abul Hajjaj Al-Mazzi, Imam Ibn Taymiyah, Imam Najmuddin Al-'Asqalani, Imam Abul Qasim Al-Azdari, Syamsuddin An-Nabilusi, Dhiyauddin An-Nahwi, Bahauddin Ibn 'Asakir Ad-Dimisyqi, and other well-known scholars of his time.

According to Ahmad Al-khani Finally, the author of the book *Al Bidayah wa An-Nihayah*, Al Hafizh Ibn Katsir (may Allah have mercy on him), is undoubtedly and undisputed, a person who is highly trusted among scholars. In fact, perhaps this ummah has never had a consensus to trust an alim, such as to Al Hafizh Ibn Katsir.²⁰ (Mukhtashar *Al Bidayah Wa An-Nihayah*, n.d.)jbbh Ibn Katsir is a very productive scholar. Many works have been written and continue to be read to this day. The most popular is the book *Tafsir Al-Qur'anil Azhim*, or also famous by the name of *Tafsir Ibn Katsir*. *Kitab Al-Bidayah wan Nihayah* (which literally means Beginning and End) is a monumental work of Ibn Katsir consisting of eighteen volumes that explains the history of Islam from the beginning of creation to the Day of Resurrection.²¹ Imam Ibn Kathir compiled this book by collecting and summarizing various credible sources of Islamic history, including the Qur'an, Al-Hadith, as well as previous historical works and commentaries. One of the uniqueness of *Al-Bidayah wan Nihayah* is its comprehensive approach in understanding Islamic history.²² This book not only discusses important events in political and military history, but also provides in-depth insights into the development of Islamic thought and culture.²³ Starting from the story of the creation of the universe to the life of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him), the period of khulafaurrasyidin, the development of Islamic dynasties, to major events in Islamic history such as the Battle of Uhud, the Battle of Badr, and the conquest of the city of Mecca, all of them are discussed in detail in this book.

Content Structure

Each volume of *Al-Bidayah wan Nihayah* has an orderly structure, starting with the early events in the history of the creation of the universe, then continuing with the history of the previous prophets before the Prophet Muhammad, and finally reaching the time of the Prophet Muhammad and the times after him. Imam Ibn Katsir presents this history in a flowing narrative

¹⁸ Ahmad Fawaid dan Viatul Karimah, "IDEOLOGICAL BIASES IN THE QURANIC EXEGESIS:: Nawawi al-Bantani and Muhammad Uthaimin's Views on Heresy," *TAJIDID: Jurnal Ilmu Ushuluddin* 21, no. 1 (2022): 53-80, <https://ojs3.tajdid.uinjambi.ac.id/index.php/tajdid/article/view/239>.

¹⁹ Roma Wijaya dan Satria Tenun Syahputra, "INTERPRETATION OF IBN QAYYIM AL-JAUZIYYAH ON SHIFA IN THE AT-TAFSIR AL-QAYYIM AND BADAA'IUT TAFSIR: Analysis of Johanna Pink's Typology," 2023, <https://wahanaislamika.staisw.ac.id/index.php/WI/article/view/106>.

²⁰ Muhammad Yahya dkk., "Comparative Critical Analysis of Methodologies for Establishing the Validity of Hadith Among Sunni and Shia," *International Journal of Religion* 5, no. 6 (2024): 777-92, <http://www.ijor.co.uk/ijor/article/view/4098>.

²¹ Hafiz Abdul Latif Arain, "Ibn Kathir some aspects" (PhD Thesis, Durham University, 1970), <http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/10143/>.

²² Sayyid Rami al Rifai, "The Islamic," diakses 26 November 2024, <https://ghayb.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/The-Islamic-Journal-04.pdf>.

²³ Suha Taji-Farouki dan Basheer M. Nafi, "Islamic thought in the twentieth century," *London: I*, 2004.

style, providing clear context and in-depth explanations of various important events and figures in Islamic history.²⁴ One of the aspects that makes Al-Bidayah wan Nihayah so valuable is the prudence of Imam Ibn Katsir in quoting his sources. He not only collected various histories and historical records, but also conducted a critical analysis of the reliability and accuracy of each source. This makes this book one of the most reliable references in understanding Islamic history. Al-Bidayah wan Nihayah is not just an ordinary historical work. This book has become one of the most important intellectual legacies in the Islamic tradition.

As expressed by Muhammad Shamil as-sulami that the book dated by Imam al-Hafizh Ibn Katsir which is popularly known as al-Bidayah wan Nihayah is one of the greatest historical encyclopedias, which illustrates the breadth of the scientific insight of its author, who holds the title of al-hafizh, al-muhaddits (hadith expert), al-mufasssir (tafsir expert) and al-muarrikh (historian) (Muhammad Husein Adz-Dzahabi, 1985). In his method of writing, Ibn the Kathir paid great attention to the sources brought in his antra, he took the Qur'an and hadith as the main references, he once said, "We will not mention the narrations of the israiliyyat (the narrations of the Children of Israel), except those that have been allowed by the Shari'ah to be quoted that do not contradict the Qur'an and the sunnah of His Messenger and this is part of the things that should not be justified or denied which usually narrates in more detail The breadth of the brief news found in our religion.²⁵ Like the mention of names that are not mentioned in our Shari'ah, which in essence is not so important for us to know the details, then in this case we will mention it as a complete and not as an argument that will be used as a foundation, because the real basis is only the noble Qur'an and the narrations that are narrated in saheeh or hasan, as for the weak narrations, we will explain the weaknesses.

Furthermore, he also took references from the book *Tarikh ar-Rusul wal Muluk* by Ibn Jarir ath-Thabari (d. 310 AH), *Tarikh Madinah ad-Dimasyqi* by Ibn Asakir (d. 571 H), *kitab al-Muntazham* by Ibn al-Jauzi (d. 597), *kitab al-Kamil fi at- Tarikh* by Ibn al-Atsir (d. 630 AH) The writing style of the book Bidayah Wan Nihayah (The Beginning and The End) by Ibn Katsir has distinctive characteristics. This book is arranged systematically, starting from the creation of Adam AS to the events of the time of its author in the 8th century Hijri. The discussion is well organized based on the chronology of historical events. Ibn Katsir used authoritative sources in the Islamic tradition, such as the Quran, hadiths, narrations of the Companions, and reliable historical works as the main references.²⁶ The presentation of history in this book tends to be narrative and detailed, with many details of events, dates, places, and names of historical figures.²⁷ In addition to presenting historical facts, Ibn Katsir also provides critical analysis, opinions, and assessments of various historical events that occurred. The language used in this book tends to be straightforward, clear, and easy to understand, without being long-winded, so that it makes it easier for the reader. This book is a very comprehensive historical documentation,

²⁴ Mehmetcan Akpınar, "Narrative representations of abū bakr (d. 13/634) in the second/eighth century" (PhD Thesis, The University of Chicago, 2016).

²⁵ Taha Jabir Al-Alwani dan Imad al Din Khalil, *The Qur'an and the sunnah: the time-space factor*, vol. 3 (International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), 1995).

²⁶ Ahmad Sanusi Bin Azmi, "Qur'anic references to prophet Muḥammad's early life: an analysis of selected works of the Third/Ninth century" (PhD Thesis, University of Birmingham, 2017), <https://etheses.bham.ac.uk/id/eprint/7376/>.

²⁷ Hayden White, *The content of the form: Narrative discourse and historical representation* (JHU Press, 1990).

covering various important events in the history of Muslims. Although Ibn Katsir had views and judgments on historical events, he tried to maintain objectivity in his writings.

Urgensi Yang Terkadung dalam Kitab Bidayah Wa Nihayah

This book of Trikh Ibn Kasir not only enriches the knowledge of Muslims about their own history, but also serves as a source of inspiration for researchers and scholars interested in understanding the social, political, and cultural dynamics in the development of Islam. In addition, Al-Bidayah wan Nihayah is also an important source of reference for Islamic scholars and scholars in understanding religious teachings more comprehensively.²⁸ By examining events in Islamic history, readers can draw lessons and inspiration to face the challenges of modern times. Bidayah wan Nihayah presents a complete and comprehensive history of Islam, starting from the creation of Adam AS to the time of the writer (Ibn Katsir) in the 8th century Hijri. This provides a thorough understanding of the historical journey of Muslims. This book deeply highlights the life of the Prophet Muhammad and his companions, providing examples, wisdom, and valuable lessons for Muslims.²⁹ Important Documentation of the History of Muslims, Bidayah wan Nihayah is an important documentation in recording and preserving various historical events of Muslims, so that it can be used as a reference and source of learning for the next generation.

This book helps to understand the context of the descent of the verses of the Qur'an and the hadith of the Prophet, so that the interpretation and understanding of Islamic teachings becomes more comprehensive. Ibn Katsir not only presents historical facts, but also provides critical analysis and assessment of various events that occurred, providing in-depth insights.³⁰ Through Bidayah wan Nihayah, Muslims can take lessons and wisdom from the course of history, so that they can orient themselves to the good and avoid mistakes in the past. Overall, the urgency contained in the book of Bidayah wan Nihayah is to provide a comprehensive understanding of Islamic history, as well as valuable lessons for Muslims in living life.

CONCLUSION

The study of Imam Ibn Katsir's work on the Book of Al Bidayah Wa An-Nihayah, as well as the historical contribution and biographical information of its authors, is considered to have made a significant contribution to Islamic historiography. The book Al-Bidayah wa An-Nihayah by Imam Ibn Katsir is considered an encyclopedic work that focuses on the history of mankind starting from the creation of Adam to his era. The study of this book reveals interesting elements, including Ibn Katsir's writing methodology, the scope of his discussion, the contextualization of historical events, and his analytical and communicative writing style. Furthermore, this book provides a comprehensive understanding of Islamic history and is an important reference for students of Islamic history. In addition, Imam Ibn Kathir's personal history, learning experiences, and writing character contributed significantly to the Islamic intellectual tradition. The book exhibits unique characteristics, including its systematic structure, use of official sources, detailed narrative style, critical analysis of historical events, and the simplicity of the language used to

²⁸ Balya Ziaulhaq Achmadin dkk., "Model of tafsir bi al-ma'tsur approach relevance to islamic education: a chronological review of qur'anic interpretation," *At-Turats Journal is a Journal of Islamic Education* 18, no. 4 (2024): 54-73, <http://repository.uin-malang.ac.id/19984/>.

²⁹ Ingrid Mattson, *The story of the Qur'an: its history and place in Muslim life* (John Wiley & Sons, 2012),.

³⁰ Walid A. Saleh, *The Formation of the Classical Tafsir Tradition: The Qur'an Commentary of Al-Tha'labi (d. 427/1035) by Walid A. Saleh*, vol. 1 (Brill, 2004).

facilitate understanding. In addition, the meaning of this book lies in offering a comprehensive knowledge of Islamic history, providing valuable lessons for the Muslim community to navigate life's challenges.

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