

The Eclipse prayer is not prayed based upon reports

Explained by Shaykh Uthaymeen

**Question:** What is the ruling if the sun is covered with clouds, but before that, it was circulated in the papers that there would be an eclipse – by the permission of Allah the Exalted – at such and such hour; is the eclipse prayer prayed even if the eclipse is not seen?

**Shaykh Uthaymeen:** It's not permissible to pray based upon what was circulated in the newspapers or based upon what was mentioned by some astronomers, if the sky is cloudy and the eclipse is not seen. This is because the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم connected the ruling to seeing it. The Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم said:

فإذا رأيتموهما فافزعوا إلى الصلاة

So when you see them, make haste to the prayer (Sahih al-Bukhari 1047)

And maybe Allah the Exalted may conceal this eclipse from some people and not others due to wisdom He intends.

Collection of Religious Verdicts 16/309

**Translator's note:** This is not to imply the person has to look directly at the eclipse in order to pray as one would look for the new moon to start Ramadan – **as this can cause blindness during a solar eclipse** – but the intent is the effect of the eclipse is apparent in your locale, because it is not cloudy.

Translated by Rasheed ibn Estes Barbee