

The Issue of 8 Rakah or 20 Rakah during Ramadan Tarawih Night Prayers

Ref 1: <https://islamqa.info/en/answers/82152/what-was-the-number-of-rakahs-in-tarawih-prayer-at-the-time-of-umar-ibn-al-khattab-may-allah-be-pleased-with-him>

Ref 2: <https://islamqa.info/en/answers/9036/numbers-of-rakahs-in-tarawih-prayer>

Ref 3: <https://islamqa.info/en/answers/93907/if-he-finishes-praying-taraweeh-with-the-first-imam-will-the-reward-of-praying-qiyaam-all-night-be-recorded-for-him>

With regard to the evidence quoted by those who say that it is not permissible to do more than eight rak'ahs in Tarawih, they quote the hadeeth of Abu Salamah ibn 'Abd al-Rahman, who asked 'Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her), "How did the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) pray during Ramadan?" She said: "[He did not pray more than eleven rak'ahs in Ramadan or at other times](#). He would pray four, and do not ask how beautiful and long they were, then he would pray four, and do not ask how beautiful and long they were, then he would pray three. I said, 'O Messenger of Allah, will you sleep before you pray Witr?' He said, 'O 'Aishah, my eyes sleep but my heart does not.'" (Narrated by al-Bukhari, 1909; Muslim, 738)

It is clear from four of the Taabi'een that [twenty rak'ahs](#) was the way that Tarawih was usually done at the time of '[Umar ibn al-Khattaab](#) (may Allah be pleased with him).

The evidence that there is no set number for prayers at night – which include Tarawih – is the hadith of Ibn 'Umar according to which a man asked the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) about prayer at night. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "[Prayers at night are to be offered two by two \(two rak'ahs at a time\)](#). If any of you fears that the time of dawn is approaching then let him [pray one rak'ah as Witr](#)." (Narrated by al-Bukhari, 846; Muslim, 749)

The words of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him), "[Whoever prays with the imam until he finishes](#), Allaah will record for him as if he spent the whole night in prayer" were narrated by al-Tirmidhi (806) and classed as saheeh by al-Albaani in Saheeh al-Tirmidhi. What is meant is encouragement not to leave before the prayers are completed, even if there is more than one imam*.

*Pray 8 rakat and 20 rakat with one imam. But if imam change, then no blame to leave.