



10889 - Sunnah before Zuhr: Two or Four?

the question

Before the fard prayer of Zuhr, do we pray 2 or a rak'ah sunnah prayer? Is there a difference among the scholars?

Summary of answer

It was narrated in some hadiths that the Sunnah prayer before Zuhr is two rak`ahs. In some other hadiths, it is narrated that Sunnah prayer before Zuhr is four rak`ahs (two-by-two).

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

You must mean, is the [Sunnah prayer before Zuhr](#) two rak`ahs or four rak`ahs? Because the one rak`ah is odd-numbered, and there is no odd-numbered prayer apart from Maghrib, and the Witr prayer at night.

The answer is: it was narrated in some hadiths that the [Sunnah prayer before Zuhr](#) is with one taslim (i.e., it is two rak`ahs), as stated in the hadith of Ibn 'Umar (narrated) in al-Sahihayn.

And in some other hadiths, it is narrated that it is two taslims (i.e., four rak`ahs), as stated in the hadith of `Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her), (narrated) in Sahih Muslim.

So one has the choice of doing two or [four rak`ahs before Zuhr prayer](#) . But some scholars suggested that if a person prays it at home it is better to pray four rak`ahs with two taslims, and if he prays them in the mosque, he should pray two rak`ahs with one taslim).

For more, please see these answers: [33779](#) , [1048](#) , [12844](#) , and [181043](#) .

And Allah knows best.