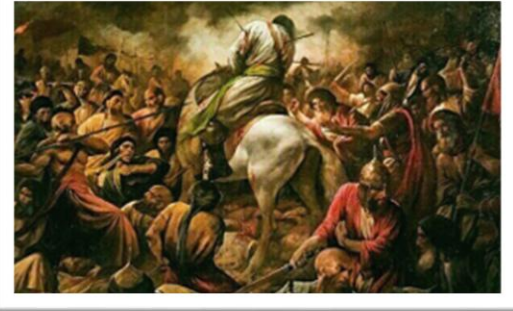


Pray for Shia Muslims during Ashura – 2026 June 25/26

Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar, began this year in Saudi Arabia on June 26th. Ashura, the 10th day of Muharram, is very significant for Shia Muslims who observe it as a day of mourning for the martyrdom of Iman Hussein, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad, who was killed along with his family and companions in 680 AD at Karbala in present day Iraq. It is a day of intense mourning for Shia Muslims and symbolizes resistance against injustice.

Ashura is marked by various rituals, including mourning gatherings, processions, and reenactments of the events of Karbala. Some use chains or swords to strike their backs or chests to express solidarity with Hussein's suffering and is seen by some as a way to earn salvation. Ashura will be on June 25th, although many Shia in the Gulf countries will follow the Iranian calendar and observe Ashura on June 26th.



The Martyrdom of Hussein



Ashura "Ya Hussein" Flag

Number of Shia in the Arabian Peninsula:	11 to 16 million Bahrain
Country with highest percentage of Shia:	Bahrain, 55% - 65% of population
Country with lowest percentage of Shia:	Oman 5% of population
Shia percentage of population in Yemen:	35% of population
Country with highest number of Shia:	Saudi Arabia, 2 - 4 million

Iran has the largest population of Shia Muslims in the world and is seen as the standard-bearing nation of the sect. Shia communities in the Arabian Peninsula participate in the rituals of Muharram and Ashura which evoke intense emotions of sadness and grief and a deep sense of connection to the world-wide Shia community. Because of the emotional and spiritual connection which all Shia Muslims living in the Arabian Peninsula have with Iran, the Ashura rituals this year could have an exceptional impact due to Iran's recent war with Israel. The heightened emotions could possibly motivate some toward actions against the ruling Sunni authorities or against western countries that supported Israel in its war against Iran.

- Pray that the Prince of Peace will bring peace to the Shia communities in the Arabian Peninsula during Ashura this year.
- Pray against the forces of spiritual darkness that would foster hate in the hearts Shiites due to the recent Israel – Iran war.
- Pray that many Shia Muslims will see that mourning over the death of Imam Hussein does not earn them favor with God, that they need to mourn over their own sins, and that the Lord Jesus Christ died to pay for their sins.
- Pray that the multitudes of Shia Muslims in Iran who have come to faith in Jesus will become fervent evangelists to the Shia living in the Arabian Peninsula.



**And Jesus came and said to them,
"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." Matt 28:18 ESV**