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Summary:

Now — what about those prayers? In the course of praying the requisite five prayers a day, an observant Muslim will recite the Fatihah, the first surah of the Qur'an and the most common prayer in Islam, seventeen times. The final two verses of the Fatihah ask Allah: "Show us the straight path, the path of those whom Thou hast favoured; not the (path) of those who earn Thine anger nor of those who go astray." The traditional Islamic understanding of this is that the "straight path" is Islam — cf. Islamic apologist John Esposito's book *Islam: The Straight Path*. The path of those who have earned Allah's anger are the Jews, and those who have gone astray are the Christians.

This is not my interpretation; it comes from the classic Islamic commentaries on the Qur'an. The renowned Qur'anic commentator [Ibn Kathir explains](#) [4] that "the two paths He described here are both misguided," and that those "two paths are the paths of the Christians and Jews, a fact that the believer should beware of so that he avoids them. The path of the believers is knowledge of the truth and abiding by it. In comparison, the Jews abandoned practicing the religion, while the Christians lost the true knowledge. This is why 'anger' descended upon the Jews, while being described as 'led astray' is more appropriate of the Christians."

Source URL (retrieved on 30/03/2020): <https://shariawatch.org.uk/?q=authors/sheikyermami>

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[1] <https://shariawatch.org.uk/?q=content/muslims-curse-kuffar-17-times-day-their-prayers>

[2] <https://shariawatch.org.uk/?q=authors/sheikyermami>

[3] <http://sheikyermami.com/2011/06/muslims-curse-the-kuffar-17-times-a-day-in-their-prayers/>

[4] <http://www.tafsir.com/default.asp?sid=1&tid=523>