



*Bait al-Maqdis* (Jerusalem) has a variety of different names, numbering close to twenty. Some of them are as follows, as mentioned by *Imām* ibn Ḥajr al-‘Aṣqalānī in his commentary of Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī, ‘*Fath al-Bārī*’:

1. Īliyā’ (إِيلِيَاء) with *madd* [extension]
2. Īliyā’ (إِيلِيَاء) without *madd*
3. Ilyā’ (إِلِيَاء) by dropping the first *yaa*
4. According to ibn ‘Abbās (أَبُو عَبْدِ اللَّهِ) could be prefixed to all the above three
5. Bait al-Maqdis (بَيْتُ الْمَقْدِسِ)
6. Bait al-Muqaddas (بَيْتُ الْمُقَدَّسِ)
7. al-Quds (الْقُدْسُ)
8. al-Qudus (الْقُدُسُ)
9. Shallam (شَلَّمَ)
10. Sallam (سَلَّمَ)
11. Shalām (شَلَّامُ)
12. Salim (سَلِيمُ)
13. Ūrī (أُورِي)
14. Kūrah (كُورَة)
15. Bait Ail (بَيْتُ أَيْل)
16. Ṣihyūn (صِهْيُون)
17. Miṣrūth (مِصْرُوث)
18. Kūrshīlā (كُورْشِيلَا)
19. Bābūs (بَابُوس)

Well, 'So what?' you might be thinking. The answer is that the great number of names indicates towards an abundance of virtue and excellence. *Imām* Fakhruddīn al-Rāzī mentions this in his *tafsīr* of Sūrah al-Ikhlās. So all these different names for Jerusalem is an indication that it is a very blessed and honourable place. May Allah *ta'ālā* grant us to visit it and pray in Masjid al-Aqṣā, *Āmīn*.