78 | Surah al-Naba

سورة النبإ

40 Ayat

Parent's tafsir: adapted from Ibn Kathir
Tafsir al-Qur'an al-'Azim · 78:1–40

Background and Meaning

Al-Naba' addresses people's dispute about the great news and points them towards the certainty of resurrection and judgement. Ibn Kathir explains the great news here as the tremendous reality of being raised after death, while also recording an interpretation referring to the Qur'an. The surah presents signs of Allah's creative power, describes the appointed Day and contrasts punishment with the reward of the mindful. The parent should follow its argument: the Lord who provides and orders this life is fully able to bring people back for the account.

Tafsir of the Surah

Ayat 1–5: The great news. Ibn Kathir explains the opening as a challenge to those who question and dispute the Resurrection. People differ between belief and denial, but their disagreement does not make the event uncertain. The repeated warning that they will know affirms the seriousness of rejecting it. The opening prepares the reader to consider the evidence of Allah's power that follows rather than dismiss the return after death merely because it has not yet been seen.

Ayat 6–16: Creation and provision. Ibn Kathir explains the earth as prepared for its inhabitants and the mountains as firmly established. Human beings are created in pairs; sleep interrupts movement and brings rest, night covers people and daylight enables their work. Above them are the strong heavens and the shining sun. Rain descends abundantly, producing grain, vegetation and gardens. These familiar gifts show the Creator's power and care. The ability to bring life and varied provision from the earth supports the argument that He can restore people after death.

Ayat 17–20: An appointed gathering. Ibn Kathir explains that the Day of Decision has a fixed time known precisely to Allah alone. When the Trumpet is blown, people come in groups. The sky opens into gateways and the mountains are moved until their former solidity has vanished like a mirage. The passage replaces the apparent permanence of the present world with the certainty of the gathering Allah has appointed.

Ayat 21–30: The consequence of rejection. Ibn Kathir explains Hell as prepared for the transgressors who opposed the messengers. He records differing explanations of ahqab, or successive ages, without treating the expression as a promise that the punishment described must end. They find neither comforting coolness nor a pleasant drink. Their recompense corresponds to their corrupt conduct: they denied the account and rejected Allah's signs. Nothing was forgotten, for Allah knew and recorded all their deeds.

78 | Surah al-Naba

سورة النبإ

40 Ayat

Parent's tafsir: adapted from Ibn Kathir
Tafsir al-Qur'an al-'Azim · 78:1–40

Tafsir of the Surah · Continued

Ayat 31–36: A generous reward. Ibn Kathir describes the people of taqwa receiving gardens, grapes, companionship and an abundant pure drink. They hear neither empty speech nor falsehood. The reward is an ample gift from their Lord, given through His bounty, kindness and mercy. The contrast teaches the reader to understand the warning alongside the hope of a life free from the corruption and harmful speech found in this world.

Ayat 37–40: Permission, truth and preparation. Ibn Kathir explains that no one speaks before the Lord without His permission. He records several early interpretations of the Spirit standing with the angels, so its precise identification here should not be presented as undisputed. The Day is certain, and people are invited to take a path back to their Lord. Each person will see the deeds he sent ahead; the denier's wish to have been dust expresses the depth of regret when the promised account becomes visible.

78 | Surah al-Naba

سورة النبإ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

١ عَمَّ يَتَسَآءَلُونَ

Memorised

What are they asking one another about?

٢ عَنِ ٱلنَّبَإِ ٱلْعَظِيمِ

Memorised

About the Great Event.

٣ ٱلَّذِى هُمْ فِيهِ مُخْتَلِفُونَ

Memorised

About which they disagree.

٤ كَلَّا سَيَعْلَمُونَ

Memorised

Surely, they will find out.

٥ ثُمَّ كَلَّا سَيَعْلَمُونَ

Memorised

Most certainly, they will find out.

٦ أَلَمْ نَجْعَلِ ٱلْأَرْضَ مِهَـٰدًا

Memorised

Did We not make the earth a cradle?

78 | Surah al-Naba

سورة النبإ

Memorisation · Continued

٧ وَٱلْجِبَالَ أَوْتَادًا

Memorised

And the mountains pegs?

٨ وَخَلَقْنَٰكُمْ أَزْوَٰجًا

Memorised

And created you in pairs?

٩ وَجَعَلْنَا نَوْمَكُمْ سُبَاتًا

Memorised

And made your sleep for rest?

١٠ وَجَعَلْنَا ٱلَّيْلَ لِبَاسًا

Memorised

And made the night a cover?

١١ وَجَعَلْنَا ٱلنَّهَارَ مَعَاشًا

Memorised

And made the day for livelihood?

١٢ وَبَنَيْنَا فَوْقَكُمْ سَبْعًا شِدَادًا

Memorised

And built above you seven strong ones?

78 | Surah al-Naba

سورة النبإ

Memorisation · Continued

١٣ وَجَعَلْنَا سِرَاجًا وَهَّاجًا

Memorised

And placed a blazing lamp?

١٤ وَأَنزَلْنَا مِنَ ٱلْمُعْصِرَٰتِ مَآءً ثَجَّاجًا

Memorised

And brought down from the clouds pouring water?

١٥ لِّنُخْرِجَ بِهِۦ حَبًّا وَنَبَاتًا

Memorised

To produce with it grains and vegetation?

١٦ وَجَنَّٰتٍ أَلْفَافًا

Memorised

And luxuriant gardens?

١٧ إِنَّ يَوْمَ ٱلْفَصْلِ كَانَ مِيقَٰتًا

Memorised

The Day of Sorting has been appointed.

١٨ يَوْمَ يُنفَخُ فِى ٱلصُّورِ فَتَأْتُونَ أَفْوَاجًا

Memorised

The Day when the Trumpet is blown, and you will come in droves.

78 | Surah al-Naba

سورة النبإ

Memorisation · Continued

وَفُتِحَتِ ٱلسَّمَآءُ فَكَانَتْ أَبْوَٰبًا ١٩

Memorised

And the sky is opened up, and becomes gateways.

وَسُيِّرَتِ ٱلْجِبَالُ فَكَانَتْ سَرَابًا ٢٠

Memorised

And the mountains are set in motion, and become a mirage.

إِنَّ جَهَنَّمَ كَانَتْ مِرْصَادًا ٢١

Memorised

Hell is lying in ambush.

لِّلطَّٰغِينَ مَـَٔابًا ٢٢

Memorised

For the oppressors, a destination.

لَّٰبِثِينَ فِيهَآ أَحْقَابًا ٢٣

Memorised

Where they will remain for eons.

لَّا يَذُوقُونَ فِيهَا بَرْدًا وَلَا شَرَابًا ٢٤

Memorised

They will taste therein neither coolness, nor drink.

78 | Surah al-Naba

سورة النبإ

Memorisation · Continued

إِلَّا حَمِيمًا وَغَسَّاقًا ٢٥

Except boiling water, and freezing hail.

جَزَآءً وِفَاقًا ٢٦

A fitting requital.

إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا۟ لَا يَرْجُونَ حِسَابًا ٢٧

For they were not anticipating any reckoning.

وَكَذَّبُوا۟ بِـَٔايَـٰتِنَا كِذَّابًا ٢٨

And they denied Our signs utterly.

وَكُلَّ شَىْءٍ أَحْصَيْنَـٰهُ كِتَـٰبًا ٢٩

But We have enumerated everything in writing.

فَذُوقُوا۟ فَلَن نَّزِيدَكُمْ إِلَّا عَذَابًا ٣٠

So taste! We will increase you only in suffering.

78 | Surah al-Naba

سورة النبإ

Memorisation · Continued

إِنَّ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ مَفَازًا ٣١

Memorised

But for the righteous there is triumph.

حَدَآئِقَ وَأَعْنَـٰبًا ٣٢

Memorised

Gardens and vineyards.

وَكَوَاعِبَ أَتْرَابًا ٣٣

Memorised

And splendid spouses, well matched.

وَكَأْسًا دِهَاقًا ٣٤

Memorised

And delicious drinks.

لَّا يَسْمَعُونَ فِيهَا لَغْوًا وَلَا كِذَّٰبًا ٣٥

Memorised

They will hear therein neither gossip, nor lies.

جَزَآءً مِّن رَّبِّكَ عَطَآءً حِسَابًا ٣٦

Memorised

A reward from your Lord, a fitting gift.

78 | Surah al-Naba

سورة النبإ

Memorisation · Continued

رَّبِّ ٱلسَّمَٰوَٰتِ وَٱلْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا ٣٧
ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ لَا يَمْلِكُونَ مِنْهُ خِطَابًا

Memorised

Lord of the heavens and the earth, and everything between them—the Most Merciful—none can argue with Him.

يَوْمَ يَقُومُ ٱلرُّوحُ وَٱلْمَلَٰٓئِكَةُ صَفًّا ۖ لَّا ٣٨
يَتَكَلَّمُونَ إِلَّا مَنْ أَذِنَ لَهُ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنُ
وَقَالَ صَوَابًا

Memorised

On the Day when the Spirit and the angels stand in a row. They will not speak, unless it be one permitted by the Most Merciful, and he will say what is right.

78 | Surah al-Naba

سورة النبإ

Memorisation · Continued

ذَٰلِكَ ٱلْيَوْمُ ٱلْحَقُّ ۖ فَمَن شَآءَ ٱتَّخَذَ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِۦ مَـَٔابًا ٣٩

Memorised

That is the Day of Reality. So whoever wills, let him take a way back to his Lord.

إِنَّآ أَنذَرْنَـٰكُمْ عَذَابًا قَرِيبًا يَوْمَ يَنظُرُ ٱلْمَرْءُ مَا قَدَّمَتْ يَدَاهُ وَيَقُولُ ٱلْكَافِرُ يَـٰلَيْتَنِى كُنتُ تُرَٰبًۢا ٤٠

Memorised

We have warned you of a near punishment—the Day when a person will observe what his hands have produced, and the faithless will say, “Oh, I wish I were dust.”

Parent tafsir: adapted from Ibn Kathir, Tafsir al-Qur’an al-‘Azim, 78:1–40.
Arabic commentary: quran.ksu.edu.sa/tafseer/katheer/sura78-aya1.html
Translation by Talal Itani, ClearQuran.com · wording unchanged · CC BY-ND 4.0.
Reuse permissions: clearquran.com/download/