

Background and Meaning

Al-Ghashiyah describes contrasting outcomes on the Day of Resurrection, calls people to look at the signs of their Creator and defines the Messenger's ﷺ responsibility to remind. Ibn Kathir identifies al-Ghashiyah as a name for the Resurrection because it overwhelms and encompasses people. His introduction records the Prophet's ﷺ recitation of this surah in prayer. The parent should connect its warnings and promises with the invitation to reflect on creation and the closing certainty that everyone returns to Allah for the account.

Tafsir of the Surah

Ayat 1–7: Faces humbled and worn. Ibn Kathir describes the humiliated condition of those whose effort ends in punishment. Their drink is intensely hot, and their food brings neither nourishment nor relief from hunger. He records explanations of dari' connected with a dry, thorny plant and the dreadful food of the Fire. The passage warns that effort alone is not a guarantee of an accepted outcome; the direction and truth of that effort matter.

Ayat 8–16: Faces showing delight. Ibn Kathir explains that the people of happiness are recognised by the blessing upon their faces and are pleased with their earlier striving. Paradise is elevated and free of empty, harmful speech. Flowing springs, raised couches, prepared cups, cushions and spread carpets describe welcome and comfort. His commentary explains the spring as a description of the kind of provision there, rather than restricting Paradise to a single spring.

Ayat 17–20: Looking at creation. Ibn Kathir explains the call to consider the camel through its remarkable strength, usefulness and willingness to be led. He then discusses the raised sky, firmly placed mountains and the earth spread and prepared for its inhabitants. These are signs familiar to the people being addressed. Reflection on them points to their powerful Creator, who owns and governs creation and alone deserves worship.

Ayat 21–24: The responsibility to remind. Ibn Kathir explains that the Prophet ﷺ must convey the message entrusted to him, while the account belongs to Allah. He records the explanation that the Messenger is not one who compels people into faith. Turning away and denying the truth do not remove a person from Allah's authority. The warning of greater punishment therefore accompanies the reminder, without making the Messenger responsible for producing belief in every heart.



Tafsir of the Surah • Continued

Ayat 25–26: The final return and account. Ibn Kathir explains the closing declaration as the return of all people to Allah and His recompense for their deeds. Good is answered with good and evil with its consequence. These short ayat gather the surah's themes together: the contrasting faces, the signs of the Creator and the conveyed reminder all lead back to the reality of meeting the Lord who judges with complete knowledge.



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

هَلْ أَتَاكَ حَدِيثُ الْغَاشِيَةِ

Has there come to you the news of the Overwhelming?



Memorised

وَجْوهٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ خَاشِعَةٌ

Faces on that Day will be shamed.



Memorised

عَامِلَةٌ نَّاصِبَةٌ

Laboring and exhausted.



Memorised

تَصْلَى نَارًا حَامِيَةً

Roasting in a scorching Fire.



Memorised

تُسْقَى مِنْ عَيْنٍ عَاطِيَةٍ

Given to drink from a flaming spring.



Memorised

لَيْسَ لَهُمْ طَعَامٌ إِلَّا مِنْ ضَرِيعٍ

They will have no food except thorns.



Memorised



Memorisation · Continued

لَا يُسْمِنُ وَلَا يُغْنِي مِنْ جُوعٍ


☐ Memorised

That neither nourishes, nor satisfies hunger.

وَجْوهٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ نَّاعِمَةٌ


☐ Memorised

Faces on that Day will be joyful.

لَسَعِيهَا رَاضِيَةٌ


☐ Memorised

Satisfied with their endeavor.

فِي جَنَّةٍ عَالِيَةٍ


☐ Memorised

In a lofty Garden.

لَا تَسْمَعُ فِيهَا لَغِيَةً


☐ Memorised

In it you will hear no nonsense.

فِيهَا عَيْنٌ جَارِيَةٌ


☐ Memorised

In it is a flowing spring.



Memorisation · Continued

فِيهَا سُرُرٌ مَّرْفُوعَةٌ

١٣

Memorised

In it are raised beds.

وَأَكْوَابُ مَوْضُوعَةٌ

١٤

Memorised

And cups set in place.

وَنَمَارِقُ مَصْفُوفَةٌ

١٥

Memorised

And cushions set in rows.

وَزَرَائِبُ مَبْثُوثَةٌ

١٦

Memorised

And carpets spread around.

أَفَلَا يَنْظُرُونَ إِلَى الْإِبِلِ كَيْفَ خُلِقَتْ

١٧

Memorised

Do they not look at the camels—how they are created?

وَالِى السَّمَاءِ كَيْفَ رُفِعَتْ

١٨

Memorised

And at the sky—how it is raised?



Memorisation · Continued

وَالِى الْجِبَالِ كَيْفَ نُصِبَتْ

١٩

Memorised

And at the mountains—how they are installed?

وَالِى الْأَرْضِ كَيْفَ سُطِحَتْ

٢٠

Memorised

And at the earth—how it is spread out?

فَذَكِّرْ إِنَّمَا أَنْتَ مُذَكِّرٌ

٢١

Memorised

So remind. You are only a reminder.

لَسْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ بِمُصَيْطِرٍ

٢٢

Memorised

You have no control over them.

إِلَّا مَنْ تَوَلَّى وَكَفَرَ

٢٣

Memorised

But whoever turns away and disbelieves.

فَيُعَذِّبُهُ اللَّهُ الْعَذَابَ الْأَكْبَرَ

٢٤

Memorised

Allah will punish him with the greatest punishment.



88

Surah al-Ghashiyah

سورة الغاشية

Memorisation · Continued

إِنَّ إِلَيْنَا إِيَابَهُمْ

٢٥

Memorised

To Us is their return.

ثُمَّ إِنَّ عَلَيْنَا حِسَابَهُمْ

٢٦

Memorised

Then upon Us rests their reckoning.

Parent tafsir: adapted from Ibn Kathir, Tafsir al-Qur'an al-'Azim, 88:1-26.
Arabic commentary: quran.ksu.edu.sa/tafseer/katheer/sura88-aya1.html
Translation by Talal Itani, ClearQuran.com · wording unchanged · CC BY-ND 4.0.
Reuse permissions: clearquran.com/download/



QURBAH
INSTITUTE