

## Background and Meaning

Ibn Kathir identifies al-Nasr as a Madinan surah. It speaks of Allah's help, the conquest and people entering His religion in large numbers. His commentary explains the conquest here as the opening of Makkah. It also records Ibn 'Abbas's explanation that these signs announced the approaching completion of the Prophet's ﷺ worldly mission and life. That explanation, and 'Umar's agreement with it, are recorded in Sahih al-Bukhari. The parent's reading should include both the visible victory and the response of praise and seeking forgiveness.

## Tafsir of the Surah

Ayah 1: Help and conquest from Allah. Ibn Kathir identifies the conquest as the opening of Makkah. The surah names victory as Allah's help, directing attention to the One who brought it about. The outcome followed years in which the Prophet ﷺ had faced rejection and had been driven from his home. The command that follows teaches the response to this great change in circumstances.

Ayah 2: Entering the religion in groups. Ibn Kathir explains that Arab tribes had been waiting to see the outcome between the Prophet ﷺ and his people. After Allah granted the conquest of Makkah, people entered Islam in large numbers. The surah describes this arrival in groups, showing a stage in the mission beyond the earlier acceptance of the message by individuals.

Ayah 3: Glorify, praise and seek forgiveness. The instructed response to victory is worship: glorifying Allah with praise and asking Him to forgive. Ibn Kathir recognises the explanation that Allah's help should be met with gratitude and devotion. The verse joins praise to istighfar, so the believer's response remains humble before the Lord who grants success.

The sign understood by Ibn 'Abbas. Ibn Kathir records the discussion in which 'Umar asked the companions of Badr about the surah. Ibn 'Abbas understood it as notice of the Prophet's ﷺ approaching death, and 'Umar agreed. The conquest and widespread acceptance of Islam indicated the fulfilment of the mission. The command to praise Allah and seek forgiveness also prepared the Messenger ﷺ for his return to his Lord.

The Prophet's ﷺ response. Ibn Kathir cites 'A'ishah's report that the Prophet ﷺ frequently glorified Allah, praised Him and asked forgiveness in his bowing and prostration, putting the Qur'anic command into practice. This report is recorded in Sahih al-Bukhari. The surah therefore gives the parent both the meaning of the command and an account of the Messenger's own response. Great achievement was followed by continued worship, humility and seeking Allah's forgiveness.



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِذَا جَاءَ نَصْرُ اللَّهِ وَالْفَتْحُ



When there comes Allah's victory, and conquest.

وَرَأَيْتَ النَّاسَ يَدْخُلُونَ فِي دِينِ اللَّهِ أَفْوَاجًا



And you see the people entering Allah's religion in multitudes.

فَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ وَأَسْتَغْفِرْهُ ۚ إِنَّهُ كَانَ تَوَّابًا



Then celebrate the praise of your Lord, and seek His forgiveness. He is the Acceptor of Repentance.

Parent tafsir: adapted from Ibn Kathir, Tafsir al-Qur'an al-'Azim, 110:1-3.

Arabic commentary: [quran.ksu.edu.sa/tafseer/katheer/sura110-aya1.html](http://quran.ksu.edu.sa/tafseer/katheer/sura110-aya1.html)

Hadith references: Sahih al-Bukhari 4970 and 4968, cited by Ibn Kathir.

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