

Background and Meaning

Al-Sharh recalls Allah's favours to the Prophet ﷺ and reassures him that ease accompanies hardship. Ibn Kathir explains the opening through the expansion and illumination of his heart, the removal of a heavy burden and the raising of his remembrance. The surah then repeats its assurance of ease and ends by directing the Prophet ﷺ to devoted worship and desire for his Lord. The parent should read these parts together: gratitude for Allah's care, hope amid difficulty and renewed commitment to worship.

Tafsir of the Surah

Ayah 1: The expansion of the chest. Ibn Kathir explains this as Allah illuminating the Prophet's ﷺ heart and making it spacious and receptive. He relates it to the openness Allah grants towards Islam. He also records the explanation connected with the physical opening of the Prophet's ﷺ chest, while observing that this does not contradict the spiritual meaning. The opening recalls a great favour through which Allah prepared and supported His Messenger.

Ayah 2–3: A burden removed. Ibn Kathir connects the removal of the burden with Allah's forgiveness, referring to al-Fath 48:2. He explains the description of the burden weighing upon the back through its heaviness. The passage directs attention to relief granted by Allah, rather than presenting the Messenger's ﷺ task as something sustained independently of His help and mercy.

Ayah 4: His remembrance raised. Ibn Kathir records Mujahid's explanation that the Prophet ﷺ is mentioned alongside the declaration of Allah's oneness in the testimony of faith. His commentary also mentions the adhan, prayer and public addresses. The ayah recalls the honour Allah bestowed upon His Messenger in this world and the Hereafter. That honour is a gift from the Lord who entrusted him with the message.

Ayah 5–6: Ease with hardship. Ibn Kathir explains that Allah announces the presence of ease with hardship and then confirms the statement by repeating it. He discusses the repeated definite wording for hardship and the indefinite wording for ease. The passage gives the believer grounds for hope in Allah's relief. Its assurance should be held alongside the surah's closing call to worship, rather than detached from the relationship with Allah that the whole passage teaches.



Tafsir of the Surah • Continued

Ayat 7–8: Renewed effort and desire for Allah. Ibn Kathir explains that when worldly tasks and distractions are finished, the believer should turn energetically to worship with a free heart and sincere intention. He records related explanations concerning prayer and supplication. The final ayah directs one's intention, hope and desire to the Lord alone. The surah therefore ends with an active response to Allah's favours: sustained devotion and reliance upon Him.



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَلَمْ نَشْرَحْ لَكَ صَدْرَكَ

١

Memorised

Did We not soothe your heart?

وَوَضَعْنَا عَنْكَ وِزْرَكَ

٢

Memorised

And lift from you your burden.

الَّذِي أَنْقَضَ ظَهْرَكَ

٣

Memorised

Which weighed down your back?

وَرَفَعْنَا لَكَ ذِكْرَكَ

٤

Memorised

And raised for you your reputation?

فَإِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا

٥

Memorised

With hardship comes ease.

إِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا

٦

Memorised

With hardship comes ease.



فَإِذَا فَرَغْتَ فَانصَبْ



Memorised

When your work is done, turn to devotion.

وَالِى رَّبِّكَ فَارْغَبْ



Memorised

And to your Lord turn for everything.

Parent tafsir: adapted from Ibn Kathir, Tafsir al-Qur'an al-'Azim, 94:1-8.

Arabic commentary: quran.ksu.edu.sa/tafseer/katheer/sura94-aya1.html

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