النبأ

Surah An-Naba: The Great News

A surah that begins with a question, shows you the world as a gift, and ends with a choice that belongs to you.

Surah 78 | Juz 30 | Revealed in Makkah | 40 ayat

BEFORE WE BEGIN

Why was it revealed?

Picture Makkah in the early years of Islam. The Prophet ﷺ was calling people to believe in One God and to prepare for the Day when everyone will stand before Allah. People gathered in their meeting places and talked about it. Some were curious. Some laughed. Some argued with each other about whether this could be true.

Allah answers their conversation with a question, then with proof from the world around them, then with a clear picture of the Day they doubted. This surah has no story of a prophet. Its message is carried by questions, signs in nature, and scenes from the Day of Judgement.

AYAT 1 TO 5

The big question

Allah starts by asking what everyone is whispering about.

1

عَمَّ يَتَسَآءَلُونَ

About what are they asking one another?

2

عَنِ النَّبَإِ الْعَظِيمِ

About the great news,

3

الَّذِي هُمْ فِيهِ مُخْتَلِفُونَ

That over which they disagree.

4

كَلَّا سَيَعْلَمُونَ

No! They are going to know.

5

ثُمَّ كَلَّا سَيَعْلَمُونَ

Then, no! They are going to know.

What it means. A question like this grabs your attention. The "great news" is the message of the Qur'an and, most of all, the coming of the Day of Judgement. People were disagreeing about it, so Allah says: stop guessing, because you will see the truth for yourselves. The warning is repeated twice to show how certain it is.

النَّبَأ news

كَلَّا no, never

Lesson

Ask honest questions and look for real answers. Laughing at something you have not thought about is not the same as knowing it is false.

AYAT 6 TO 16

Look around you

Ten gifts you use every single day.

6

أَلَمْ نَجْعَلِ الْأَرْضَ مِهَادًا

Have We not made the earth a resting place?

7

وَالْجِبَالَ أَوْتَادًا

And the mountains as stakes?

8

وَخَلَقْنَاكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا

And We created you in pairs.

9

وَجَعَلْنَا نَوْمَكُمْ سُبَاتًا

And made your sleep a time of rest.

10

وَجَعَلْنَا اللَّيْلَ لِبَاسًا

And made the night as clothing.

11

وَجَعَلْنَا النَّهَارَ مَعَاشًا

And made the day for earning a living.

12

وَبَنَيْنَا فَوْقَكُمْ سَبْعًا شِدَادًا

And built above you seven strong heavens.

13

وَجَعَلْنَا سِرَاجًا وَهَّاجًا

And placed in them a blazing lamp.

14

وَأَنْزَلْنَا مِنَ الْمُعْصِرَاتِ مَاءً ثَجَّاجًا

And sent down from the rain clouds pouring water,

15

لِنُخْرِجَ بِهِ حَبًّا وَنَبَاتًا

So that We bring forth grain and plants,

16

وَجَنَّاتٍ أَلْفَافًا

And gardens thick with leaves.

Earth
a place to rest, ayah 6

Mountains
hold it steady, ayah 7

Pairs
company for each other, ayah 8

Sleep
rest for the body, ayah 9

Night
a cover of calm, ayah 10

Day
time to work, ayah 11

Seven heavens
built strong, ayah 12

The sun
light and warmth, ayah 13

Rain
water from the clouds, ayah 14

Gardens
grain, plants, fruit, ayat 15 and 16

What it means. Allah does not argue with big words here. He points to things the people of Makkah could see and touch. The earth is like a bed, the mountains hold it steady, and night and day fit our lives like clothes and tools. The sun gives light, and rain turns dry ground into gardens. The point is simple: the One who planned all this so carefully can also bring you back to life.

سُبَات deep rest

أَوْتَاد stakes, like tent pegs

أَلْفَاف thickly woven

Lesson

Gratitude begins with noticing. Tonight, when you go to sleep, remember that rest itself is a gift from Allah.

AYAT 17 TO 20

The Day of Decision

A day with a fixed time, when everything changes.

17

إِنَّ يَوْمَ الْفَصْلِ كَانَ مِيقَاتًا

Indeed, the Day of Decision is an appointed time:

18

يَوْمَ يُنفَخُ فِي الصُّورِ فَتَأْتُونَ أَفْوَاجًا

The Day the Horn is blown and you come forward in crowds,

19

وَفُتِحَتِ السَّمَاءُ فَكَانَتْ أَبْوَابًا

And the sky is opened and becomes gateways,

20

وَسُيِّرَتِ الْجِبَالُ فَكَانَتْ سَرَابًا

And the mountains are set moving and become like a mirage.

What it means. The "Day of Decision" is the day when Allah separates truth from falsehood and gives every person their result. Its time is already fixed with Allah. Scholars say the Horn is blown by an angel, and then people come forward in groups. The mountains, which seemed the strongest things on earth, drift away like a mirage. If even mountains cannot stay, then everything we hold onto in this world is temporary.

الْفَصْل decision, separation

سَرَاب mirage

Lesson

Do not build your whole life on things that will pass. Invest in what lasts: faith, good deeds and good character.

AYAT 21 TO 30

A warning, and a fair reason

Allah warns so that people can change before it is too late.

21

إِنَّ جَهَنَّمَ كَانَتْ مِرْصَادًا

Indeed, Hell has been lying in wait,

22

لِلطَّاغِينَ مَآبًا

A place of return for those who cross all limits,

23

لَابِثِينَ فِيهَا أَحْقَابًا

Staying there for ages.

24

لَا يَذُوقُونَ فِيهَا بَرْدًا وَلَا شَرَابًا

They will taste in it no coolness and no drink,

25

إِلَّا حَمِيمًا وَغَسَّاقًا

Only scalding water and foul fluid,

26

جَزَاءً وِفَاقًا

A fitting reward for what they did.

27

إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا لَا يَرْجُونَ حِسَابًا

Indeed, they never expected to be held to account,

28

وَكَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا كِذَّابًا

And they flatly denied Our verses.

29

وَكُلَّ شَيْءٍ أَحْصَيْنَاهُ كِتَابًا

But We have counted and written down everything.

30

فَذُوقُوا فَلَنْ نَزِيدَكُمْ إِلَّا عَذَابًا

So taste it. We will increase you in nothing but punishment.

What it means. Hell is described as "lying in wait", ready for those who crossed every limit. Ayah 26 gives the key idea: the result matches the deeds. Ayat 27 to 28 name the reason. These people did not believe they would ever answer for their actions, and they rejected the signs Allah sent. Ayah 29 is a reminder that nothing is missed, because every action is counted and recorded.

الطَّاغِين those who cross limits

وِفَاق a perfect match

Lesson

Allah is perfectly just. Nothing you do is ignored, and no one is treated unfairly. Living as if no one will ever ask you about your actions is the mistake these ayat warn about.

AYAT 31 TO 36

Good news for the mindful

Now the picture turns bright.

31

إِنَّ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ مَفَازًا

Indeed, for the mindful of Allah there is success:

32

حَدَائِقَ وَأَعْنَابًا

Gardens and grapevines,

33

وَكَوَاعِبَ أَتْرَابًا

And companions of equal age,

34

وَكَأْسًا دِهَاقًا

And an overflowing cup.

35 لَا يَسْمَعُونَ فِيهَا لَغْوًا وَلَا كِذَّابًا

They will hear no useless talk there, and no lies,

36 جَزَاءً مِنْ رَبِّكَ عَطَاءً حِسَابًا

A reward from your Lord, a generous gift, exactly as promised.

What it means. The mindful are people who keep Allah in their hearts and are careful about how they live. Their reward is called "success" and also a "gift". Gardens, fruit and good company are described in words we can picture. Look at ayah 35: there is no bad talk and no lying. In the hereafter, the sweetest thing is a peaceful place where nobody hurts you with words.

- الْمُتَّقِينَ those mindful of Allah
- مَفَازًا success, a win

Lesson

Jannah is a place without lies and harsh words, so start practicing now. Speak kindly and tell the truth, even when it is hard.

AYAT 37 TO 40

The silent Day and your choice

The surah ends with a warning, an open door, and a wish.

37 رَبِّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا الرَّحْمَٰنِ ۖ لَا يَمْلِكُونَ مِنْهُ خِطَابًا

The Lord of the heavens and the earth and all between them, the Most Merciful. No one has the power to speak to Him.

38 يَوْمَ يَقُومُ الرُّوحُ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ صَفًّا ۖ لَا يَتَكَلَّمُونَ إِلَّا مَنْ أَذِنَ لَهُ الرَّحْمَٰنُ وَقَالَ صَوَابًا

The Day the Spirit and the angels stand in rows, no one will speak except the one the Most Merciful allows, and he will say what is right.

39 ذَٰلِكَ الْيَوْمُ الْحَقُّ ۖ فَمَنْ شَاءَ اتَّخَذَ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِ مَآبًا

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

40 إِنَّا أَنْذَرْنَاكُمْ عَذَابًا قَرِيبًا يَوْمَ يَنْظُرُ الْمَرْءُ مَا قَدَّمَتْ يَدَاهُ وَيَقُولُ الْكَافِرُ يَا لَيْتَنِي كُنْتُ تُرَابًا

Indeed, We have warned you of a punishment that is near, the Day a person will see what their hands sent ahead, and the disbeliever will say, "I wish I were dust!"

What it means. On that Day, nobody will speak unless Allah allows it. Even the Spirit, whom scholars understand to be Jibril, and the angels stand quietly in rows. The True Day is certain. Then comes the open door in ayah 39: whoever wants to, can take a way back to their Lord. Ayah 40 calls the Day "near" because, compared with eternity, our whole life is short. On that Day each person sees their own deeds, and some will wish they had never been given a choice at all.

الرُّوح the Spirit (scholars say Jibril) | مَآب a way of return

Lesson

The choice is yours, and the way back to Allah is open right now. Every good deed you send ahead today is something you will meet again.

Six lessons to take with you

Ask honest questions
Look for real answers before you laugh at something or turn away from it.

Notice and say thanks
Sleep, rain, sunlight and food are gifts that are easy to forget.

This world is temporary
Even mountains will disappear, so build for what lasts.

Allah is fair
Every action is recorded, and the result always matches the deed.

Guard your words
Paradise is a place with no lies and no harsh talk. Practice that now.

The door is open
Whoever wishes can take a way back to their Lord today.

English wording is adapted from the Sahih International translation for young readers. Please check the Arabic text against a printed mushaf before printing or sharing.