### Tafsir Ibn Kathir

*Tafsir Ibn Kathir*, is a classic Sunni Islam Tafsir (commentary of the Qur'an) by Imad ud Din Ibn Kathir. It is considered to be a summary of the earlier Tafsir al-Tabari. It is popular because it uses Hadith to explain each verse and chapter of the Qur'an...

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#### Surah Naba'

*(The Great News)*

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6. 
Have We not made the earth as a bed,

7. 
And the mountains as pegs

8. 
And We have created you in pairs.

9. 
And We have made your sleep as a thing for rest.

10. 
And We have made the night as a covering,

11. 
And We have made the day for livelihood.

12. 
And We have built above you seven strong,

13. 
And We have made (therein) a shining lamp.

14. 
And We have sent down from the Mu`srat water Thajjaj.

15. 
That We may produce therewith grains and vegetations,
And gardens that are Alfaf.

Refutation against the Idolators’ Denial of the Occurrence of the Day of Judgement

In rejection of the idolators’ questioning about the Day of Judgement, due to their denial of its occurrence, Allah says,

What are they asking about? About the great news,

meaning, what are they asking about? They are asking about the matter of the Day of Judgement, and it is the great news.

Meaning the dreadful, horrifying, overwhelming information.

About which they are in disagreement.

meaning, the people are divided into two ideas about it.

- There are those who believe in it and
- those who disbelieve in it.

Then Allah threatens those who deny the Day of Judgement by saying,

Nay, they will come to know!
Nay, again, they will come to know!
This is a severe threat and a direct warning.

Mentioning Allah’s Power, and the Proof of His Ability to resurrect the Dead

Then, Allah begins to explain His great ability to create strange things and amazing matters. He brings this as a proof of His ability to do whatever He wishes concerning the matter of the Hereafter and other matters as well.
He says,

آَلِمْنَا نَجْعِلِ الْأَرْضَ مِهَادًا (١)

Have We not made the earth as a bed,

meaning, an established, firm and peaceful resting place that is subservient to them.

وَإِلَيْهَا أُوْدِنَّا (٧)

And the mountains as pegs,

meaning, He made them as pegs for the earth to hold it in place, make it stable and firm. This is so that it may be suitable for dwelling and not quake with those who are in it.

Then Allah says,

وَخَلَقْنَا كُمَا أُوْزِجَتُمَا (٨)

And We have created you in pairs.

meaning, male and female, both of them enjoying each other, and by this means procreation is achieved.

This is similar to Allah's statement,

وَمِنْ أَنْسَابِكُمَا خَلَقْنَاهَا لِيَخْلِصَنَا مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمَا أُوْزِجَتِكُمَا إِلَيْهَا وَخَلَقْنَاهَا لِيَخْلِصَنَا مِنْ شَيْطَانِ يَدَّ وَسُوءِ الْبَصَرِ. (٣٠:٢١)

And among His signs is this that He created for you wives from among yourselves, that you may find repose in them, and He has put between you affection and mercy. (30:21)

Allah says,

وَجَعَلْنَا لَيَاذَانِيًا (٩)

And We have made your sleep as a thing for rest.

meaning, a cessation of movement in order to attain rest from the frequent repetition and going about in search of livelihood during the day.

A similar Ayah has been mentioned previously in Surah Al-Furqan.

وَجَعَلْنَا اللَّيْلَ لِيَاضِعَةً (١٠)

And We have made the night as a covering,

meaning, its shade and darkness covers the people.

This is as Allah says,
By the night as it conceals it. (91:4)

Qatadah commented; \( \text{وَجَعَّلَتُ الْلَّيْلَ لَيْيَعُدُّ } \) meaning, a tranquil residence.

Concerning Allah's statement,

\[ \text{وَجَعَّلَتُ الْلَّيْلَ لَيْيَعُدُّ } \] (11)

And We have made the day for livelihood.

meaning, `We made it radiant, luminous, and shining so that the people would be able to move about in it.'

By it they are able to come and go for their livelihood, earning, business dealings and other than that as well.

In reference to Allah's statement,

\[ \text{وَجَعَّلَتُ الْلَّيْلَ لَيْيَعُدُّ } \] (12)

And We have built above you seven strong,

meaning, the seven heavens in their vastness, loftiness, perfection, precision, and adornment with both stable and moving stars.

Thus, Allah says,

\[ \text{وَجَعَّلَتُ الْلَّيْلَ لَيْيَعُدُّ } \] (13)

And We have made (therein) a shining lamp.

meaning, the radiant sun that gives light to all of the world. Its light glows for all of the people of the earth.

Allah then says,

\[ \text{وَأَنْزَلْنَا مِنَ الْعَصْرَاتِ مَاءٌ نَّجَّاجًا } \] (14)

And We have sent down from the Mu` sirat water Thajjaj.

Ali bin Abi Talhah reported from Ibn Abbas that he said,

"From the Mu` sirat means from the clouds."

This was also stated by Ikrimah, Abu Al-`Aliyah, Ad-Dahhak, Al-Hasan, Ar-Rabi` bin Anas, Ath-Thawri, and it is preferred by Ibn Jarir.

Al-Farra' said,
"They are the clouds that are filled with rain, but they do not bring rain. This is like the woman being called Mu`sir when (the time of) her menstrual cycle approaches, yet she does not menstruate."

This is as Allah says,

الله الَّذِي نَزَّلَ الْرَّحْمَةَ ثُمَّ ثَمَّكَ تَقْبَلَهَا فِي السَّمَّاءِ كَفَّرَ بِشَأْنِهَا وَكَفَّرَ عَنْهَا الْغَيْبَ ١٦١

Allah is He Who sends the winds, so that they raise clouds, and spread them along the sky as He wills, and then break them into fragments, until you see rain drops come forth from their midst! meaning, from its midst. (30:48)

Concerning Allah’s statement, ماء ثَاجِج١٦١ (water Thajjaj) Mujahid, Qatadah, and Ar-Rabi` bin Anas all said,

"Thajjaj means poured out."

At-Thawri said, "Continuous."

Ibn Zayd said, "Abundant."

In the Hadith of the woman with prolonged menstrual bleeding, when the Messenger of Allah said to her,

أَنْفَسَلِي الْغُرْفِ

I suggest you to make an absorbent cloth for yourself." Meaning, `dress the area with cotton.'

The woman replied, "O Messenger of Allah! It (the bleeding) is too much for that. Verily, it flows in profusely (Thajja)."

This contains an evidence for using the word Thajj to mean abundant, continuous and flowing. And Allah knows best.

Allah said,

لِتَخْرِجَ يَوْهَبَتْهَا وَتَبْيِينَتَا (١٥)

وَجِبَالٍ أَلْفَافٍ (١٦)

That We may produce therewith corn and vegetation, and gardens that are Alfaf.

meaning, `so that We may bring out great abundance, goodness, benefit, and blessing through this water.'

جَرَاءِ
This refers to that which is preserved for (the usage) of humans and cattle.

And vegetations,

meaning, vegetables that are eaten fresh.

And gardens,

meaning, gardens of various fruits, differing colors, and a wide variety of tastes and fragrances, even if it is ingathered at one location of the earth.

This is why Allah says (And gardens that are Alfaf).

Ibn `Abbas and other said, "Alfaf means gathered.''

This is similar to Allah's statement,

And in the earth are neighboring tracts, and gardens of vines, and green crops, and date palms, growing into two or three from a single stem root, or otherwise, watered with the same water; yet some of them We make more excellent than others to eat. Verily, in these things there are Ayat for the people who understand. (13:4)

17. Verily, the Day of Decision is a fixed time,

18. The Day when the Trumpet will be blown, and you shall come forth in crowds.

19. And the heaven shall be opened, and it will become as gates.

20. And the mountains shall be moved away from their places and they will be as if they were a mirage.
21. Truly, Hell is a place of ambush

٢١. إن جَهَنَّم كَانَت مُرْضَأًا

22. A dwelling place for the Taghun,

٢٢. لِلطَّافِعِين مَآبًا

23. They will abide therein Ahqab.

٢٣. لا يَزِدُونَ فِيهَا أَحْقَابًا

24. Nothing cool shall they taste therein, nor any drink.

٢٤. لا يَذَوَّغُونَ فِيهَا نَزْرًا وَلَا شَرَابًا

25. Except Hamim, and Ghassaq

٢٥. إِلَّا حَمِيمًا وَغَسَاقًا

26. An exact recompense (according to their evil crimes).

٢٦. جُزْءًا وَقَاتًا

27. For verily, they used not to look for a reckoning.

٢٧. إِنَّمَا كَانُوا لا يَرَوْنَ حِسَابًا


٢٨. وَكَذَٰلِكَ مَا أَيْتَمَّتْنَا كِتَابًا

29. And all things We have recorded in a Book.

٢٩. وَكَلِمَتِ يَوْمَ حِسَابٍ

30. So taste you. No increase shall We give you, except in torment.

٣٠. فَذَٰلِكَ قَالُوا أَقَلُّنَ تَزَيدْكُمْ إِلَّا عَذَابًا
Explaining the Day of Decision and what occurs during it

Allah says

أَنَّ الْيَوْمَ الْقَضَالَ كَانَ مِيَاقًا (۱۷)

Verily, the Day of Decision is a fixed time,

Allah says about the Day of Decision -- and it is the Day of Judgement -- that it is at a fixed time, with a set appointment. Its time cannot be added to or decreased. No one knows its exact time except Allah. This is as Allah says,

وَمَا نَزَّلَنَا مِلَائِكَ الْأَلَّاهِيِّينَ مِثْلَهُ (۱۸)

And We delay it only for a term fixed. (11:104)

And He informs,

تَوَفَّيْنَا فِي الصُّوْرَةِ فَتَأَلَّوْنَ أَفْوَاحًا (۱۸)

The Day when the Trumpet will be blown, and you shall come forth in crowds.

Mujahid said, "Groups after groups."

Ibn Jarir said, "This means that each nation will come with its Messenger.

It is similar to Allah's statement,

تَوَفَّيْنَا فِي الصُّوْرَةِ فَتَأَلَّوْنَ أَفْوَاحًا (۱۸)

The Day when We shall call together all human beings with their Imam. (17:71)"

Al-Bukhari reported concerning the explanation of Allah's statement, في الصُّوْرَةِ فَتَأَلَّوْنَ أَفْوَاحًا Abu Hurayrah said that the Messenger of Allah said,

ما أَتَابِي للّحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَمَا أَتَابِي للْيَوْمَ الْجُعُولِ (۹۸)

That which is between the two blowings is forty.

Someone asked, "Is it forty days, O Abu Hurayrah"
But he (Abu Hurayrah) refused to reply, saying "no comment."
They then asked, "Is it forty months"
But he (Abu Hurayrah) refused to reply, saying "no comment."
They asked again, "Is it forty years"
But he (Abu Hurayrah) refused to reply, saying "no comment."
(Abu Hurayrah added:) "Then the Prophet went on to say,

وَتَبَكَّرَ الْجَنُّوْنَ السَّمَاءَ فَكَانَتْ أَبْوَابًا (15)

And the heaven shall be opened, and it will become as gates.

meaning, paths, and routes for the descending of the angels.

وَتَنْزِيْرُ الْجَبَلِ الْجَبَلَانَ فَكَانَتْ سَراَبًا (20)

And you will see the mountains and think them solid, but they shall pass away as the passing away of the clouds. (27:88)

He also says,

وَتَكُونُ الْجَبَلُ كَالْفَيْلَانِ الْمُتَّفَقَةِ (101:5)

And the mountain will be like carded wool. (101:5)

And Allah says here, فَكَانَتْ سَراَبًا (As if they were a mirage.)

meaning, they appear to the one who looks at them as if they are something, but they are actually nothing. After this they will be completely removed. Nothing will be seen of them, and there will be neither base nor trace of them.

This is as Allah says,

فَيَبِدَأُ بِهَا عَلَى أَصْفَصَا (10)
And they ask you concerning the mountains, say: "My Lord will blast them and scatter them as particles of dust. Then He shall leave them as a level smooth plain. You will see therein nothing crooked or curved." (20:105-107)

And He says,

And the Day We shall cause the mountains to pass away, and you will see the earth as a leveled plain. (18:47)

Allah then says,

Truly, Hell is a place of ambush, meaning, it is waiting in preparation.

for the Taghun,
These are the disobedient rejectors who oppose the Messengers.

A dwelling place,
meaning, a place of return, final destination, final outcome, and residence.

Allah said,

They will abide therein Ahqab.
meaning, they will remain in it for Ahqab, which is the plural of Huqb. Huqb means a period of time.

Khalid bin Ma`dan said,

"This Ayah, and the Ayah, (except your Lord wills.11:107), both refer to the people of Tawhid.

Ibn Jarir recorded this statement.
Ibn Jarir also recorded from Salim that he heard Al-Hasan being asked about Allah's statement:

لا يَدْوِفُونَ فِيهَا أَخْفَاقًا، وَلا أَشْرَابًا (٢٥)

"In reference to Ahqab, it has no specific amount of time other than its general meaning of eternity in the Hellfire. However, they have mentioned that the Huqb is seventy years, and every day of it is like one thousand years according to your reckoning (in this life)."

Sa`id reported from Qatadah that he said, "Allah says,

لا يَدْوِفُونَ فِيهَا أَخْفَاقًا، وَلا أَشْرَابًا (٢٥)

And it is that which has no end to it. Whenever one era comes to an end, a new era follows it. It has been mentioned to us that the Huqb is eighty years."

Ar-Rabi` bin Anas said,

لا يَدْوِفُونَ فِيهَا أَخْفَاقًا، وَلا أَشْرَابًا (٢٥)

"No one knows how much time this Ahqab is, except for Allah, the Mighty and Sublime. It has been mentioned to us that one Huqb is eighty years, and the year is three hundred and sixty days, and each day is equivalent to one thousand years according to your reckoning (in this life)."

Ibn Jarir has recorded both of these statements.

Allah's statement:

لا يَدْوِفُونَ فِيهَا أَخْفَاقًا، وَلا أَشْرَابًا (٢٥)

Nothing cool shall they taste therein, nor any drink.

meaning, they will not find any coolness in Hell for their hearts, nor any good drink for them to partake of.

Thus, Allah says,

لا يَدْوِفُونَ فِيهَا أَخْفَاقًا، وَلا أَشْرَابًا (٢٥)

Except Hamim, and Ghassaq

Abu Al-`Aliyah said,

- "The Hamim has been made an exception to the coolness, and
- Ghassaq is the exception to the drink."

This has also been said by Ar-Rabi` bin Anas.

In reference to the Hamim, it is the heat that has reached its maximum temperature and point of boiling.
The Ghassaq is gathered from the pus, sweat, tears, and wounds of the people of Hellfire. It is unbearably cold with an intolerable stench.

May Allah save us from that by His beneficence and grace. Amin.

Then He continues,

جَزَاءً وَقَابَةً (26)

An exact recompense.
meaning, that which will happen to them of this punishment is in accordance with their wicked deeds, which they were doing in this life.

Mujahid, Qatadah, and others have said this.

Then Allah said,

إِنَّمَا كَانُوا أَلَا يَرْجُونَ حِسَابًا (27)

For verily, they used not to look for a reckoning.
meaning, they did not believe that there would be an abode in which they would be taken to account.

But they denied Our Ayat Kidhdhaba.
meaning, they used to deny the evidences of Allah and His proofs for His creation, which He revealed to His Messengers. So they met these proofs with rejection and abstinence.

His statement, كِيدَحَبَا (Kidhdhaba) it means rejection, and it is considered a verbal noun that does not come from a verb.

Allah said;

وَكُلَّ شَيْءٍ أَخْصِصْنَاهُ كَتَابًا (29)

And all things We have recorded in a Book.
meaning, `surely We know the deeds of all of the creatures, and We have written these deeds for them. We will reward them based upon this.'

If their deeds were good then their reward will be good, and if their deeds were evil their reward will be evil.

Allah then says,
So taste you. No increase shall We give you, except in torment. This means that it will be said to the people of the Hellfire,

"Taste that which you were in. We will never increase you in anything except torment according to its type (of sin), and something else similar to it."

Qatadah reported from Abu Ayyub Al-Azdi, who reported from Abdullah bin Amr that he said,

"Allah did not reveal any Ayah against the people of the Hellfire worse than this Ayah, (So taste you. No increase shall We give you, except in torment.)"

Then he said,

"They will continue increasing in torment forever."

| 31. | إنَّ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ مَفَارِضًا |
| Verily, for those who have Taqwa, there will be a success; |
| 32. | حَدَّ أَنفٍ وَأَعْتَابًا |
| Hada’iq and vineyards, |
| 33. | وَكَواِبَ أَنْتِرَابًا |
| And Kawa’ib Atrab, |
| 34. | وَكُفُّاصًا رَهْقًا |
| And a cup Dihaq. |
| 35. | لاَ يَسْمُعُونَ فِيهَا لَغْوًا وَلَا كَذِبًا |
| No Laghw shall they hear therein, nor lying; |
| 36. | جَرَاءًا مِّن بَلَدَةٍ عَظِيمٍ حُسَنًا |
| Rewarded from your Lord with a sufficient gift. |
Allah informs about the happy people and what He has prepared for them of esteem, and eternal pleasure.

Allah says,

اِنَّ لِلّمُتَّقِينَ مَفَازَةً (31)

Verily, for those who have Taqwa, there will be a success;

Ibn Abbas and Ad-Dahhak both said,

"A place of enjoyable recreation."

Mujahid and Qatadah both said,

"They are successful and thus, they are saved from the Hellfire."

The most obvious meaning here is the statement of Ibn Abbas, because Allah says after this, حَدَائِقَ (Hada'iq) , And Hada'iq are gardens of palm trees and other things.

حَدَائِقَ وَأَنْعَابًا (32)

وَكَوَايَبَ أَذْرَابِيَّا (33)

And vineyards, and Kawa`ib Atrab, meaning, wide-eyed maidens with fully developed breasts.

Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid and others have said, كَوَايَبُ (Kawa`ib)

"This means round breasts. They meant by this that the breasts of these girls will be fully rounded and not sagging, because they will be virgins, equal in age. This means that they will only have one age."

The explanation of this has already been mentioned in Surah Al-Waqi`ah.

Concerning Allah's statement,

وَكَتَابُ الْقَهَاقِ (34)

And a cup Dihaq.

Ibn Abbas said, "Continuously filled."

Ikrimah said, "Pure."

Mujahid, Al-Hasan, Qatadah, and Ibn Zayd all said, بَيْضًا (Dihaq)
"This means completely filled."

Then Allah says,

لا يشْمَعُونَ فِيهَا لَغْوًا وَلَا كَذَّابًا (۲۵)

No Laghw shall they hear therein, nor lying;

This is similar to Allah's statement,

لا يشْمَعُونَ فِيهَا لَغْوًا وَلَا كَذَّابًا (۳۶)

Free from any Laghw, and free from sin. (52:23)

meaning, there will not be any vain, worthless speech therein, nor any sinful lying. Rather, it will be the abode of peace, and everything that is in it will be free of any shortcomings.

Allah then says,

جزاءً مِّنَ الْطَّالِبِينَ حَسَابًا (۳۶)

Rewarded from your Lord with a sufficient gift.

meaning, `this that We have mentioned to you is what Allah will reward them with, and they will be given it by His favor and from Him. It will be a kindness, mercy, gift, and recompense from Him. It will be sufficient, suitable, comprehensive and abundant.'

The Arabs say, "He gave me and he sufficed me."

This means that he sufficiently provided for me."

From this comes the saying, "Allah is sufficient for me."

37. 

اللَّهُ الْقُدُّوسُ بِعَمَّانِعِهِ الْقُدُّوسُ الْمُبَارَكُ مَا يُقَدِّمُونَ مَثَالًا قَطْعًا

The Lord of the heavens and the earth, and whatsoever is in between them, the Most Gracious,

لا يَتَّبِعُونَ مَثَالًا خَطَّابًا

with Whom they cannot dare to speak.

38. 

يَوْمَ يَقُومُ الْرَّحْلُ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ مَنْصُوبًا

The Day that Ar-Ruh and the angels will stand forth in rows,
they will not speak except him whom Ar-Rahman allows, and he will speak what is right.

That is the True Day.

So, whosoever wills, let him seek a place with His Lord!

Verily, We have warned you of a near torment -- the Day when man will see that which his hands have sent forth,

and the disbeliever will say: "Woe to me! Would that I were dust!"

No one will dare to speak before Allah -- not even the Angels - without first receiving Permission

The Lord of the heavens and the earth, and whatsoever is in between them, the Most Gracious,

Allah informs of His magnificence and His majesty, and that He is the Lord of the heavens and the earth, and whatever is in them and between them. He explains that He is the Most Gracious, Whose mercy covers all things.

Then He says,

With Whom they cannot dare to speak.

meaning, no one is able to begin addressing Him except by His permission.

This is as Allah says,
Who is he that can intercede with Him except with His permission, (2:255)

It is also similar to His statement,

On the Day when it comes, no person shall speak except by His leave. (11:105)

The Day that Ar-Ruh and the angels will stand forth in rows, they will not speak. (78:38)

The word Ruh here is referring to the angel Jibril. This has been said by Ash-Sha`bi, Sa`id bin Jubayr and Ad-Dahhak.

This is as Allah says,

Which the trustworthy Ruh has brought down. Upon your heart that you may be of the warners. (26:193-194)

Muqatil bin Hayyan said,

"The Ruh is the noblest of the angels, the closest of them to the Lord, and the one who delivers the revelation."

Allah said;

except him whom Ar-Rahman allows,

This is similar to Allah's statement,

On the Day when it comes, no person shall speak except by His leave. (11:105)

This is similar to what has been confirmed in the Sahih, that the Prophet said,
And none will speak on that Day except the Messengers."

Allah said,


and he will speak what is right.

meaning, the truth. And from the truth is the fact that there is no god worthy of worship except Allah.

This is as Abu Salih and Ikrimah both said.

In reference to Allah's statement,

...ذَٰلِكَ الْيَوْمُ الْحَلِيُّ ...

That is the True Day.

meaning, it will come to pass and there is no avoiding it.

...فَمَنْ شَاءَ أَطْلَقْتُ إِلَيْهِ رَحْمَةً (۲۹)...

So, whosoever wills, let him seek a place with His Lord!

meaning, a place of return, a path that leads to Him, and a way that he may pass by to get to Him.

**The Day of Judgement is Near**

Allah said,

...إِنَّآ أُذْنَتْنَا كَمْ عَدَّلَ ٱلَّذِينَ قَرَبَوْاْ ... 

Verily, We have warned you of a near torment,

meaning, the Day of Judgment.

It is mentioned here to emphasize the fact that its occurrence has become close, because everything that is coming will certainly come to pass.

...يَوْمَ يَنْظُرُ أَمْرُهُ مَا قَدَّمَتْ يَدُ أَمْرَهُ ... 

the Day when man will see that which his hands have sent forth,

meaning, all of his deeds will be presented to him -- the good and bad, and the old and new.

This is similar to Allah's statement,

...وَوَجَدُواْ أَمَا أَعْمَلُواْ خَافِيًّا 

And they will find all that they did, placed before them. (18:49)
It is also similar to His statement,

لَيْتَنَا الذَّاهِبِنِيْنَ إِلَىٰ وَاحِدٍۖ وَأَخَرُ

On that Day man will be informed of what he sent forward, and what he left behind. (75:13)

Then Allah says,

وَيَقُولُ الدَّاَمِنُ عَلَيْهِ اللَّهُ الْإِجْلَالُ كَثِيرًا (۲۴)

and the disbeliever will say: "Woe to me! Would that I were dust!"

meaning, the disbeliever on that Day will wish that he had only been dust in the worldly life.

He will wish that he had not been created and that he had never come into existence. This will be when he sees the torment of Allah and he looks at his wicked deeds that will be written down against him by the noble righteous scribes among angels.

It has been said that he will only wish for that when Allah passes judgement between all of the animals that were in the worldly life. He will rectify matters between them with His just wisdom that does not wrong anyone. Even the hornless sheep will be allowed to avenge itself against the sheep with horns. Then, when the judgement between them is finished, He (Allah) will say to them (the animals),

"Be dust."

So they will all become dust.

Upon witnessing this the disbeliever will say, ياَلَّٰلَّٰتِيْنِيُّمُثُرُنَا! (Would that I were dust!)

meaning, `I wish I was an animal so that I would be returned to dust.'

Something of similar meaning to this has been reported in the well-known Hadith about the Sur.

There are also narrations recorded from Abu Hurayrah, Abdullah bin Amr, and others concerning this.

This is the end of the Tafsir of Surah An-Naba'. And all praise and thanks are due to Allah. He is the Giver of success and protection from error.

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