

Sura Naba

1. What does 'Naba' mean and in which ayat is it mentioned? What is 'Naba' referring to?

Naba means 'tiding' (as in 'a piece of news'). It is mentioned in ayat #2 and the majority of scholars think it refers to the Day of Resurrection or the Holy Quran. Others think it may be referring to the whole of Islamic principles or even Prophet Muhammad (saw).

2. The beginning ayats repeated mentions a third party; who do you think 'they' in the first 5 ayats of this sura are referring to?

Prophet Muhammad's (saw) tribe, the Quraysh, most of whom rejected the message.

3. Give the English translation of the following ayats. What is the purpose of this repetition?

كَلَّا سَيَعْلَمُونَ
ثُمَّ كَلَّا سَيَعْلَمُونَ

'No! They are going to know. Then no! They are going to know.'

The repetition could be for emphasis on what disbelievers will come to know on the Day of Judgment. Or some scholars believe the first ayat could be addressing disbelievers and the second ayat could be addressing believers (details of what each group 'will know' is detailed later in the sura: disbelievers=ayats #21-30 and believers=ayats #31-36).

4. In this sura, many of the bounties of Allah (swt) are mentioned. List 6 of these blessings and their purpose as described in the sura. Why do you think Allah (swt) points to these signs in the context of this sura?

Bounty	Purpose
Earth	As a resting place
Mountains	As pegs/stakes
Sleep	For you to rest
Night	As a covering
Day	For seeking livelihood
Sun and Rain from the clouds	To help produce corn/grain and plants/herbs and gardens.

5. Ayat #13 of this sura refers to a 'burning lamp'. Ayats #45-46 of Sura Ahzab also use this phrase. What does this phrase refer to and why do you think it is used?

Here it is understood to be a reference to the sun, however some scholars interpret it as a reference to Prophet Muhammad. In Sura Ahzab, the phrase refers to Prophet Muhammad (saw). The use of the phrase highlights his being a spiritual guide, illuminating those around him through his knowledge, guidance and good character.

6. In ayats #14-16, the Holy Quran describes the sending of water from clouds and the growing of plants and grains. What is Allah (swt) telling us about causation in these ayats?

Allah (swt) says 'that We might produce grain and plants thereby' indicating that He remains the primary cause for all things. It is not the rain which produces plants and grain, but God himself who does so by means of the rain.

Draw a picture to illustrate this process.



7. What 2 names does this sura call the Day of Resurrection in ayat #17 (give the Arabic and English for each term)? Why do you think each name is used?

Yawm al fasl (day of division) – It is referred to as the day of division because it will provide distinction between right/truth and wrong/falsehood.

Miqata (a moment appointed) – It is referred to as such because it is guaranteed.

8. We are told that on the Day of Judgement a trumpet will be blown twice. Who will blow the trumpet? Do you think ayat #18 refers to the first or second blowing of the trumpet? Why?

On the Day of Judgement Israfil will blow the trumpet twice – the first time he blows it all of the creation will swoon and the second time all souls will rise from their graves and be gathered before God (as we are told in 50:20-21 and 64:9).

This ayat talks about people coming together in groups and therefore either refers to the second blowing of the trumpet (or alternatively refers to both blows of the trumpet combined).

- 9. According to this sura, who does Hell lie in wait for? Why will it be difficult for those people in Hell? Why does the Quran tell us this is appropriate for them? Give the ayat numbers.**

Ayat #22 – Hell lies in wait for the transgressors/rebellious

Ayats #24-25 – It will be difficult for these people because in hell there will be no coolness or drink except boiling liquid and cold, murky fluid

Ayats #26-28 – It is appropriate for them because they did not expect a reckoning and they denied the signs of Allah (swt). In other words, they did not believe in Him/the Day of Judgement and therefore did not try to prepare for the next world

- 10. According to this sura, who will go to Heaven? What blessings await them in Heaven? The Holy Quran also mentions non-physical blessings in ayat #35; why do you think the Holy Quran chooses to mention this as a blessing? Give the ayat numbers.**

Ayat #31 – the righteous, or those who safeguard themselves against evil with full awareness of Divine laws, will go to Heaven

Ayats #32-34 – In Heaven there will be orchards/gardens and vineyards, beautiful maidens and overflowing cup to drink from.

Ayat #35 – There they will not hear any idle talk or lying. Idle talk and lying can be seen to represent the concupiscent and devious tendencies, respectively, as manifested in speech, whereas true speech is pure peace! (The Study Quran by Seyyed Hossein Nasr)

Why does Allah (swt) say He tells us about the hereafter? Give the ayat number(s)

Ayats #39-40 – As a warning and so that we return to Him through belief and good deeds