

Tafseer Surah an-Nasr (النصر)

Notes on Nouman Ali Khan's Concise Commentary of the Quran

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Introduction

- This is one of the shortest surahs in the Quran
- Majority say this was revealed in the Medinan period
 - Nouman Ali Khan follows it was revealed during the Meccan period
- Ibn Abbas said this surah was a farewell address of the Prophet (pbuh)
 - Meaning Allah is hinting towards the Prophet's (pbuh) death and completion of his mission
- There is a correlation between this surah and Surah al-Fath (chapter 48)
 - It redefines how the Muslims think about victory
- Some reports suggest that the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was reciting this surah while entering Mecca during its conquest at the end of his life
 - Suggesting that his mission is now complete

Tafseer of the Verses

1. When the help of Allah has come and the conquest

- a. Two interpretations:
 - i. It's referring to past tense
 1. It would mean it was revealed after the conquest
 - ii. It's referring to future tense
 1. It would mean it was revealed before the conquest
- b. Arabic word *nasr* (help)
 - i. It means a great amount of help. Almost like a life and death situation type of help
 - ii. The dominant interpretation is that it is speaking about Allah's aid to His messenger against the Quraysh and others who fight against him. In the end he would get the aid and victory
- c. Arabic word *fath* (conquest)
 - i. In Quran, it is used in two ways:
 1. To indicate opening something figuratively or literally
 - a. Ex: opening gates, doors to blessings, sky for rain, etc.
 - b. Also to indicate opening the city gates to mean conquest
 2. Verdict - taking a decision on a disputed issue
 - ii. Here in this verse it means the final victory of the religion of Allah over its enemies that were fighting against it in Mecca

- d. The help from Allah is the means to get to the goal (conquest and victory). This is why help is mentioned first in the verse

2. And you see the people entering into the religion of Allah in multitudes

- a. Referring to the end of the Prophet's mission when large amounts of people will be entering Islam and standing by the Prophet's (pbuh) side
 - i. After the conquest of Mecca, people of various tribes from all over the Arabian peninsula came together willingly under the banner of Islam without fighting
- b. Allah is also indicating that His religion alone will have victory and not others in the end because it is the truth and is His religion
 - i. Large numbers of people started to convert as well after the conquest of Mecca because they felt it must be a true religion to accomplish all that it had in the Arabic peninsula
 - 1. Most people on earth follow whatever popular trends surround them so that had to do with it as well for some of them

3. Then exalt [Him] with praise of your Lord and ask forgiveness of Him. Indeed, He is ever Accepting of repentance

- a. Meaning when what is mentioned in the previous verses takes place, then prepare to meet Allah by making abundance of *tasbeeh*, praise, and lots of *istighfaar* (forgiveness). Allah accepts repentance from those who glorify [*tasbeeh*] Him and seek His forgiveness [al-Tafseer al-Muyassar]
- b. The Prophet (pbuh) died two years after the conquest of Mecca [Tafseer Jalalayn]. He is being told to praise and glorify Allah because the victory and conquest are not possible without His aid. Everything that happened is because of Allah's blessing and favor [Zubdah al-Tafseer]
- c. Allah will continue and increase His aid when we glorify, praise, and seek His forgiveness. This is because the more we are grateful to Him, the more He gives us from His blessings [Tafseer Sa'adi]