

For Fast 12

Chapter 11

- 36** And it was revealed to Noah: None of your people will believe except those who have already believed, so do not grieve at what they do;
- 37** and make the ark under Our eyes and Our revelation, and do not speak to Me on behalf of those who are unjust. Surely they will be drowned.

Note: The prophets and saints of Allah can be given Divine revelation informing them that certain wicked people will not now mend their ways, and forbidding the prophet or saint to pray for them (“do not speak to Me on behalf of those who are unjust”). However, we ordinary believers must always assume that no matter how stubborn may some people be in wrongdoing, yet they *can* change through our efforts and prayers. Sometimes other types of Divine decrees have been made known by God to prophets or saints, regarding which they are forbidden by God to pray for the averting of those decrees.

- 40** At length when Our command came and water gushed forth from the valley, We said: Carry in it [i.e. the ark] two of all things, a pair, and your own family — except those against whom the word has already gone forth — and those who believe. And only a few believed with him.
- 41** And he (Noah) said: Embark in it, *in the name of Allah be its sailing and its anchoring*. Surely my Lord is Forgiving, Merciful.

Note: These words of Noah are used as a prayer by passengers when boarding a vehicle to start a journey.

- 42** And it moved on with them amid waves like mountains. And Noah called out to his son, who was apart: My son, embark with us and do not be with the disbelievers.
- 43** He said: I will take refuge on a mountain that will save me from the water. He said: There is none safe today from Allah’s command, but he on whom He has mercy. And a wave intervened between them, so he was among the drowned.
- 45** And Noah cried to his Lord and said: My Lord, surely my son is of my family, and Your promise is true, and You are the most just of the judges.
- 46** He said: O Noah, he is not of your family; he is (an embodiment of) unrighteous conduct. So do not ask of Me that of which you have no knowledge. I admonish you so you may not be of the ignorant ones.
- 47** He said: My Lord, I seek refuge in You from asking of You that of which I have no knowledge. And unless You forgive me and have mercy on me, I shall be among the losers.

Note: Noah was told by Allah in v. 40 to carry in the ark “your own family” and “those who believe”, the promise being that his family would be saved. But his son refused to follow his warnings and drowned. In v. 45 Noah cries to Allah, pleading that his son was from his family, so why wasn’t Allah’s promise fulfilled? Allah replies that the son, being unrighteous through and through, is not from his family in Allah’s eyes. Allah then cautions Noah against calling upon Him in a matter about which he has no knowledge and questioning Allah’s judgment. This shows that sometimes Allah passes a decree which He does not avert even if a great prophet were to beseech Him.
