

(Note: Wherever the word “you” or “your” is singular and refers to one human being, it is printed with an italic *y*, as in: *you*. Wherever such a word refers to God, the *y* is printed in capital, as in: *You*.)

For Fast 12

Chapter 11

112 Continue, then, in the right way as you are commanded, as also (should) those who turn (to Allah) with you. And do not be inordinate, (O people). Surely He is Seer of what you do.

Note: Not only is man forbidden to do any wrong himself, but he should keep himself at a safe distance from wrong and refrain from leaning towards the wrongdoers.

113 And do not incline to those who do wrong, so that the fire touch you; and you have no protectors besides Allah, then you would not be helped.

114 And keep up prayer at the two ends of the day and in the first hours of the night. Surely good deeds take away evil deeds. This is a reminder for the mindful.

Note: The times of prayer are clearly indicated here. Of the two ends of the day, the first is the *fajr*, or the prayer *before sunrise*, and the second includes the *zuhr*, or *the early afternoon*, and the *‘asr*, or *the later afternoon*, prayers. In the first hours of the night we have the *maghrib*, or *the after sunset prayer*, and the *‘ishā’*, or the prayer *before going to bed*. The two afternoon prayers and the two after sunset prayers, which are spoken of together, may under exceptional circumstances be said together.

115 And be patient, for surely Allah does not waste the reward of the doers of good.

116 Why were there not, then, among the generations before you, those possessing understanding, who forbade mischief in the earth, except a few among them whom We delivered? And the unjust pursued the enjoyment of plenty, and they were guilty.

117 And your Lord would not destroy the towns unjustly, while their people acted well.

Note: God does not destroy people unjustly. He destroys them only when they act corruptly and make mischief in the world. He would not

destroy them *if they act well*, whatever their beliefs. Most of the commentators take the word *zulm* (*injustice* in the word “unjustly”) here as meaning *shirk* or setting up partners with God, and the meaning becomes that God would not destroy people, even though they were guilty of *shirk*, provided they *acted well*. The translation in this case would be: *your Lord would not destroy the towns for wrong beliefs, while their people acted well.*