

## CMCS Houston

### Topic for Tuesday 17th August: Justice

#### 'JUSTICE' THE QUR'AN:

Justice is a central theme in the Qur'an, dictating the traditions of law and how they should be put into practice. There are two ways in which justice operates: in a legal sense and in a divine sense. Regarding justice in the legal sense, the Qur'an tells Muslims not only how to conduct themselves, but is also highly important regarding relationships with other people. It states what the various punishments for certain crimes should be along with the justification behind this reasoning. Furthermore, the Qur'an brings across the idea that anyone who propagates the message of justice and acts accordingly will be justly rewarded with their place in jannah. For such divine justice, religious background is not important: good deeds will always be rewarded both in this world and hereafter too, enshrining the justice for all by Allah.

"O ye who believe! Be ye staunch in justice, witnesses for Allah, even though it be against yourselves or (your) parents or (your) kindred, whether (the case be of) a rich man or a poor man, for Allah is nearer unto both (them ye are). So follow not passion lest ye lapse (from truth) and if ye lapse or fall away, then lo! Allah is ever Informed of what ye do." Surah An-Nisa (4:135)

"And eat up not one another's property unjustly (in any illegal way e.g. stealing, robbing, deceiving, etc.), nor give bribery to the rulers (judges before presenting your cases) that you may knowingly eat up a part of the property of others sinfully." Sura Al-Baqara:188 (2:188)

"Verily! Allah commands that you should render back the trusts to those to whom they are due; and that when you judge between men, you judge with justice. Verily, how excellent is the teaching which He (Allâh) gives you! Truly, Allâh is Ever All-Hearer, All-Seer." Sura An-Nisa:58 (4:58)

#### 'JUSTICE' IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:

In the Old Testament, justice is described as a core attribute of God. The Israelites are called to remember their time of slavery in Egypt, and to do justice in their own lives and communities. "For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes." Deut. 10:17

Therefore: Deut. 16:18 "Appoint judges and officials for each of your tribes in every town the Lord your God is giving you, and they shall judge the people fairly. 19 Do not pervert justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the innocent. 20 Follow justice and justice alone, so that you may live and possess the land the Lord your God is giving you."

#### JUSTICE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT:

Justice is as one of the major themes in the New Testament. English translations often obscure this reality. Under the influence of the King James Version, many modern English translations use the word 'righteousness' instead of 'justice.' Modern versions however increasingly translate the key term *tsedek* in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament correctly as 'justice.'

Matthew 6:20: "For I say unto you, that except your justice shall exceed the justice of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."  
Matthew 6:33: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His justice; and all these things shall be added unto you."

(In addition, the righteousness of God is virtually synonymous with His justice: While the most common Old Testament word for just means 'straight,' and the New Testament word means 'equal,' in a moral sense they both mean 'right'.)