



MEANING OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUSTICE

1. Are humans valuable? Selected indicators
2. Lesson 1: Psa 33:5 *He loves righteousness and justice.* Justice is about righteousness, words, God, creation

RIGHTEOUSNESS & JUSTICE APPEAR TOGETHER REGULARLY IN THE BIBLE

1. APPEAR TOGETHER @100 TIMES

2. HENDIADYS

Psa 89:14 *Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Lovingkindness and truth go before You.*

Psa 97:1-2 *The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; Let the many islands be glad. Clouds & thick darkness surround Him; Righteousness & justice are the foundation of His throne.*

Isa 1:27 *Zion shall be redeemed by justice, and those in her who repent, by righteousness.*

Isa 32:16 *Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field.*

Isa 33:5 *The LORD is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness*

Jer 9:23-24 *Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practice steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth; for in these things I delight, says the LORD."*

John 16:7-11 *Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convince the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.*

MEANING OF RIGHTEOUSNESS & JUSTICE

1. BOTH WORDS HAVE BROAD MEANING

- a. English: purity, good, doing right
- b. Hebrew word for **righteous/righteousness** translated by 20 different words in English; Greek rendered right, righteousness

Judg 5:11 *To the sound of musicians at the watering places, there they repeat the triumphs (tsedaqah) of the LORD, the triumphs of his peasantry in Israel. "Then down to the gates marched the people of the LORD.* 1 Sam 12:7 *Now therefore stand still, that I may plead with you before the LORD concerning all the saving deeds (hq'd'c. tsedaqah) of the LORD which he performed for you and for your fathers.* Lev 19:36 *You shall have just (tsedeq) balances, just (tsedeq) weights, a just (tsedeq) ephah, and a just (tsedeq) hin; I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from the land of Egypt.*

- c. Hebrew word for **justice/judge** translated by 72 English words or phrases. Greek word rendered as court (2), judgment (38), judgments (2), justice (4), sentence (1)

2. MEANING

A. RIGHTEOUSNESS & JUSTICE ARE ETHICAL TERMS WHICH REFER TO HOW PEOPLE RELATE TO EACH OTHER & TO COMMUNITY ESPECIALLY TO VULNERABLE

- i. Lev. 19:18; Mt 7:12
- ii. 3 places: Psa (15, 24, 37, 112) Pro (10:2, 7, 11; 11:5,6, 8, 10) & Isa (9:7; 51:7; 60:17; 61:10-11)

Psa 112:1-10 *Praise the LORD. Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in his commandments! His descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in his house; and his righteousness endures forever. Light rises in the darkness for the upright; the LORD is gracious, merciful, and righteous. It is well with the man who deals generously and lends, who conducts his affairs with justice. For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered for ever. He is not afraid of evil tidings; his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD. His heart is steady, he will not be afraid, until he sees his desire on his adversaries. He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his horn is exalted in honor. The wicked man sees it and is angry; he gnashes his teeth and melts away; the desire of the wicked man comes to nought.*

Isaiah 9:7 *Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

B. RIGHTEOUSNESS IS A QUALITY OF GOD

Deut. 10:17-18 *For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.*

Deut 32:4 *The Rock, his work is perfect; for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and right is he.*

Psa 146:5-10 *Happy is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the sojourners, he upholds the widow and the fatherless; but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. The LORD will reign forever, thy God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!*

3. JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS ARE ACTIONS

Isa 16:5 *...then a throne will be established in steadfast love and on it will sit in faithfulness in the tent of David one who judges and seeks justice and is swift to do righteousness.*

Isa 56:1 Thus says the LORD: *"Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.*

Isa 58:2 *Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that did righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.*

Dan 4:27 *Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you; break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your tranquility.*

Pro 21:3 *To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.*

Psa 23:3 *...he restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

Psa 106:3 *Blessed are they who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times!*

JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS IN CREATION

Gen. 1:26-31 *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.*

FACTORS WHICH POINT TO AN ORDERLY, SECURE, COHERENT, DEPENDABLE WORLD CHARACTERIZED BY JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

1. CREATION MOVES FROM **CHAOS TO REST**: WITHOUT FORM AND VOID (1:1, 2); REST (2:1, 2)A
2. GOD IS IN **CHARGE** OF CREATION, CREATION NOT OUT OF CONTROL
3. HUMANS ARE MADE IN THE **IMAGE OF GOD**—WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- a. Dominion & subdue

- i. Humans to take care of creation way God did; be like him in dealing w/ creation
- ii. Words likeness/image used in the ancient world in sense of representative: statute represented king

- b. God made world and the world itself continues creation thru reproduction

- i. Way God made it still taking place
- ii. Birth, marriage, death in midst of chaos; plants reproducing in midst of injustice & unrighteousness

- c. NT & image of God

- i. Col 1:15 *He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation (cf., 2 Cor 4:4)*
- ii. Ephesians 4:22-24 *Put off your old nature which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new nature, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*

- d. Blessing

- i. Not found in the ancient world outside of Bible
- ii. Confidence that God will be with us, that life will be good, that humans are valuable, significant and important

4. REST

- a. World did not stop when God rested, nor will it stop when we rest
- b. Sabbath b/c key point in Ten Commandments about justice

Deut 5:12-14 *Observe the sabbath day to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant or your ox or your donkey or any of your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you, so that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you.*

5. HUMANS/ANIMALS GIVEN EVERY PLANT FOR FOOD

- a. Point: God created enough food for every animal & man
- b. God repeats: “you shall have every plant for food”

6. #5—GOD EVALUATES HUMANS HE CREATED: “VERY GOOD”