

The Justice of God

In both the Old Testament Hebrew and the New Testament Greek the word “Justice” has the same translation as “Righteous” in our English Bibles. The meanings of these two terms are therefore used interchangeably.

DEFINITION

Justice is the actions of God based upon His holiness that reflects how God deals with the created realm.

- ◆ Righteousness means God acts in accordance with what is right based upon His own nature.
- ◆ Both terms reflect the fact that a Holy God always deals with what He created in a manner that is consistent to the manifestation of Holiness.
- ◆ To be Just or Righteous is to be perfect in His works and ideals.
- ◆ In Hebrew the word “righteous”, according to its etymology, means "right" or "straight."
- ◆ The Righteousness or Justice of God is the attribute which leads Him always to do right. It is not to be limited, as it so often is in modern theological usage, to His punitive justice.

“The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is He.” DEUTERONOMY 32:4

The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion. PSALMS 116:5

The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made. PSALMS 145:17

HOW GOD’S ATTRIBUTE OF JUSTICE IS MANIFESTED

1 THE JUSTICE OF GOD IS MANIFESTED IN HIS LOVE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATE OF SIN.

Psalms 11:4-7

- ◆ God hates sin. It violates His being and it is rebellion to His Holiness, therefore it must be dealt with. To do anything else would cause God to stop being holy.
- ◆ A hatred of sin is a holy thing, as David knew (Psalm 139: 21,22).

2 THE JUSTICE OF GOD IS MANIFESTED BY HIM GIVING SINNERS THE PUNISHMENT DUE TO THEIR SINS

When Moses stretched out his staff toward the sky, the LORD sent thunder and hail, and lightning flashed down to the ground. So the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt; hail fell and lightning flashed back and forth. It was the worst storm in all the land of Egypt since it had become a nation. Throughout Egypt hail struck everything in the fields -- both men and animals; it beat down everything growing in the fields and stripped every tree. The only place it did not hail was the land of Goshen, where the Israelites were. Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron. "This time I have sinned," he said to them. "The LORD is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong." EXODUS 9:23-27

- ◆ 2 Chronicles 12:5-6
- ◆ Daniel 9:12, 14
- ◆ Revelation 16:5-6

The Lord never over punishes, nor does He ever under punish. All acts of the Lord are measured out perfectly according to the Lord's Holiness. There is no possibility of anything else.

3 THE JUSTICE OF GOD IS REVEALED BY HIM GIVING THE RIGHTEOUS THE REWARDS DUE FOR THEIR FAITHFULNESS.

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day -- and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. 2 TIMOTHY 4:8

God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. HEBREWS 6:10

Psalms 7:9-11

- ◆ The Lord's justice includes honouring those who remain faithful. It is a motivating factor, though not the only, in our living for the Lord.

4 THE JUSTICE OF GOD IS MANIFESTED IN HIS PROTECTING AND DELIVERING HIS PEOPLE FROM ALL THEIR TROUBLES AND ENEMIES

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for Him. The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. PSALMS 98:1

The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. PSALMS 103:6

They have greatly oppressed me from my youth -- let Israel say -- they have greatly oppressed me from my youth, but they have not gained the victory over me. Plowmen have plowed my back and made their furrows long. But the LORD is righteous; he has cut me free from the cords of the wicked. PSALMS 129:1-4

2 Thessalonians 1:6-7 ; Psalms 96:11; Psalms 116:5-6

They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works. The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made. The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. PSALMS 145:5, 15-19

Revelation 15:2-3

◆ When God executes His justice in the punishment of the sinner it is sometimes spoken of as deliverance for the righteous.

- 2 Thessalonians 1:6-7
- Revelation 19:1-2
- Revelation 16:4-6

5 THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IS MANIFESTED IN KEEPING HIS PROMISES

You are the LORD God, who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and named him Abraham. You found his heart faithful to you, and you made a covenant with him to give to his descendants the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Jebusites and Girgashites. You have kept your promise because you are righteous. NEHEMIAH 9:7-8

6 THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IS MANIFESTED IN HIM PROVIDING COMPLETE CLEANSING WHEN SIN IS FORGIVEN AND IN HIS JUSTIFYING THE PERSON WHO HAS FAITH IN JESUS.

“God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished -- he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.” ROMANS 3:25-26

7 THE JUSTICE OF GOD IS MANIFESTED IN THE FORGIVENESS OF BELIEVERS SINS WHEN THEY ARE CONFESSED.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 JOHN 1:9

8 GOD'S JUSTICE IS OFTEN THE ONLY THING WE CAN CLING TO WHEN THERE HAS BEEN INJUSTICE, HARM, OR PERSECUTION OF THE BELIEVER.

Often the only thing we have is to trust in the Lord's justice, rather than in human justice. Instead of seeking human revenge we leave all things in the Lord's hands knowing by faith that true justice for the believer will come, either in this lifetime or in eternity.

"Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ROMANS 12:19

APPARENT DIFFICULTIES

- ◆ Hell is unjust as there is no another chance
- ◆ A Loving God would not act in this way
- ◆ If God is all-powerful and all-forgiving, why couldn't He just forgive us?
- ◆ If God is just why is there so much injustice now? Why do they get away with their evil?



LIFE APPLICATIONS

1. God can be trusted with our lives for He will deal with us justly.
2. Our hatred of sin is morally acceptable as it violated Gods nature.
3. We know that God is just towards the violent offender (Psalm 73).
4. We can rest in the Lord for He will deal with those who harm us or any of His children.
5. In Christ we are kept secure because our sins are perfectly dealt with in His blood. Salvation has been justly handled.
6. I have an advocate who defends me before the throne of God daily.
7. The fear of God is that He sees all and thus rewards or disciplines me accordingly.