

Resonate

BIBLE STUDY

**“GOD’S GREATEST HITS:
EVERYBODY WANTS TO
RULE THE WORLD”**

Justice: an attribute of God that is often overlooked. Yet, the Scripture is full of references to this important aspect of God. This is a powerful term that impacts not only our present life but also eternity. This week we will delve deeper into the implications of the justice of God.



The Word

Today's Scripture:

Exodus 20:1-17, Romans 6:23

Before we can understand justice, we must understand the law. This week will begin with the basics: The Ten Commandments. Most of us have heard of these laws. They have recently been in the media spotlight as lawyers seek to have copies of The Ten Commandments removed from public arenas. Often, these public places are court houses. Why were these commandments placed in these judicial houses? American law is based on these commandments. These laws that were given thousands of years ago are still the foundation of all modern law. Our hundreds of laws and statutes can be boiled down to these Ten Commandments:

Exodus 20:1-17

¹ *And God spoke all these words:*

² *"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.*

³ *"You shall have no other gods before me.*

⁴ *"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand {generations} of those who love me and keep my commandments.*

⁷ *"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.*

⁸ *"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and*

the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ "You shall not murder.

¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ "You shall not steal.

¹⁶ "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Verse 1-17: These were the laws that God spoke. He created these commandments to govern His people. This was the basis for judging right and wrong. It was no longer based on personal opinion or preference. These commands allowed the people to know their boundaries in life. To break these laws caused sin against a holy God and caused social disruption within the community. These laws provided the basis for government.

Justice, then, is upholding what is right (defined by the law) and condemning what is wrong (defined by breaking the law). A person who does not break the law receives justice by not coming under condemnation. A transgressor of the law receives justice by being condemned under the law. The law is the standard by which justice is administered. Thus, justice is fair for its standard is the law, which is equal to all. In other words, true justice is not swayed by race, gender, socio-economics, or background. Since the law is static, and justice carries out the law, then everyone should receive justice in the same way.

However, we know that this is not true in our legal system. We often see the innocent proclaimed guilty and the guilty declared innocent. Or, we see the same crime punished in different ways depending on the defendant. In this unfair way of upholding the law, justice is not administered, but instead personal preferences of the court is carried out. This, of course, negates the entire purpose of the law which was to create a standard that was equal for everyone in order to govern the people.

God's law, however, was established by Himself in His perfect state. Thus, the law is perfect for He proclaimed it. By forming the law, He also set up a system for the law to be enforced. Law is powerless in governing society if it is not enforced. If no one ever received a ticket, then who would obey traffic laws? So, law in itself does not cause people to follow the rules. Instead, the enforcement of the law, the justice, brings people to

obedience. Yet, whether the enforcement of the law is practiced, one who breaks the commandments is still a lawbreaker.

The lawgiver, God Himself, knew that only He Himself could perfectly enforce the law. Thus the creator of the Ten Commandments is the very one who upholds their standard. He has chosen the punishment and it is strictly enforced. No one can escape His justice. Since all of us have broken a commandment, that means we are all lawbreakers. The judgment will be executed on us for all of us are under the law.

Romans 3:19-20

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. ²⁰Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

Verse 19: We are all under the law. We have nothing to say in our defense. Our verdict is guilty and the defense is silent. We are accountable to the Lawgiver as well as the Enforcer of Justice, the Judge. We are not righteous. As soon as we broke one law, we are a criminal. Another term for this is sinner. We have sinned, broken the law. As a fellow sinner to another, let me tell you the verdict is in “Guilty” and the sentence is “Death”.

Romans 6:23a

²³For the wages of sin is death...

The wages of sin is death. As a lawbreaker, that is what you deserve. We have all sinned. That is why we all die. Death is heart-wrenching for it is a punishment for our lawlessness. It is a depressing and overwhelming event for it is a constant reminder of our fallen, evil ways. Something inside us cries, “This is not how it should be”. And you are right. God created us in righteousness. Adam and Eve lived in perfection for a time. But when they broke God’s law, sin and death entered the world. Because God is just, when sin entered the world, punishment of sin had to come with it. The punishment is fair. Everyone is held to the same standard. Your race, socio-economic status, gender or background does not preclude you from the consequences of your lawlessness. The justice of God is equal and all encompassing

God is just. He has always been just. He will always be just. The law makes us aware that we are not just. We are lawbreakers. We are

sinner. Because we are criminals, we are held accountable. Death is our sentence.

God is just. Yet, somehow His justice devised an amazing plan. He knew we deserved death. The death was beyond physical death, even though we are all subject to it. There is also a spiritual death, an eternal separation from a holy God. Criminals cannot roam free. We need to have our record wiped clean. So, a just, God sent His perfect Son to earth. His Son, Jesus, never sinned. He was never a lawbreaker. This means He was righteous. So, the only one who did not deserve to die was killed on a cross. On that cross, He became the payment for our crimes. He received the punishment that we deserved. He literally took our place. When we put our faith in Him, He takes away our criminal record and gives us His righteousness. Justice has been served on the cross. We do not have to pay for our crimes for eternity. Instead of eternal death, we can have eternal life. The criminal can now roam heaven as a free citizen with no record. In fact, let's look at all of Romans 6:23, not just the first half:

Romans 6:23

²³For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

What did we owe for our crimes? Death. What did the just God give us? Eternal life. How is this obtained? Only through Christ Jesus our Lord. He can set us free from the penalty we deserve. Justice was served on a wooden cross by a perfect God.

Application

Think about God's justice in your life. Because justice was obtained for you on the cross, you are spared (if you have faith in Christ) from paying an eternal debt. Ponder all that you deserved and praise God for giving you His Son's righteousness.

Summarize how the laws and justice work together.

Describe how it feels to realize that you are a lawbreaker who deserves eternal death. How is this realization different from the way you usually view yourself?

How does understanding the justice of God make the cross even more meaningful to you?



Today's Scripture:

Daniel 9:4-14

The Word

Daniel 9:4-14

⁴ I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed:

"O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with all who love him and obey his commands, ⁵ we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. ⁶ We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.

⁷ "Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame—the men of Judah and people of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far, in all the countries where you have scattered us because of our unfaithfulness to you. ⁸ O LORD, we and our kings, our princes and our fathers are covered with shame because we have sinned against you. ⁹ The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him; ¹⁰ we have not obeyed the LORD our God or kept the laws he gave us through his servants the prophets. ¹¹ All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you.

"Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against you. ¹² You have fulfilled the words spoken against us and against our rulers by bringing upon us great disaster. Under the whole heaven nothing has ever been done like what has been done to

Jerusalem. ¹³ Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us, yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth. ¹⁴ The LORD did not hesitate to bring the disaster upon us, for the LORD our God is righteous in everything he does; yet we have not obeyed him.

Verse 4-5: God keeps His covenant with His people. He has promised to love us and He does and He will. His love, however, does keep in perfect step with His justice. When we have sinned, His love and justice is still shown to us. The consequences that are given to us for breaking His law does not negate His love. Because we are disobedient, we cannot get angry at God for holding us accountable.

Is this not true for any parent? You love your child yet you will punish them for their disobedience, their transgression of your laws. Does that mean you no longer love them? No, it is actually the opposite. Out of your love for them you punish your child so that they will learn their lesson and next time choose the right way to go. The same is true with our Heavenly Father. He loves us and His love is a part of His justice just as His justice is a part of His love.

Verse 6: The justice of God involved the warning of God. He did not see His people transgress an unknown law. Instead, He had warned them of the coming judgment. He sent prophets who spoke His Word to the people. The prophets proclaimed that if the people did not repent from their wicked ways, they would suffer the consequences. The people refused to listen and they were punished.

Verse 7: God was right in what He did. If a son of a judge had to stand trial, the only right thing for the judge to do is to enforce the law against His son. This did not mean the judge had lost His love for His son. God loved His people but He was right in executing judgment. The shame of the consequences was not in God but in the people. They could not blame God for punishing their wrongdoing.

The punishment that the Jews received was removal from their land. They had been living in Israel but they were conquered by other kingdoms. They were forcibly removed from their country and were relocated in the foreign lands.

Verse 8: The punishment for their sins was equal. The kings received the same consequences as the common family man. God is just, His punishment is equal.

Verse 9-10: The justice of God does not remove His mercy and forgiveness. They are still available. Even in the middle of your punishment you can receive His pardon. That does not mean your consequences are removed. The people were not suddenly transported back to Israel the day Daniel prayed (even though later on some of the people were allowed to return). However, the mercy was available. When you sin, do not confess your sins in hope that the consequences of your sin will be removed. That will not happen. Instead, confess your sin to receive the cleansing of the sin itself. The transgression will be removed from your record even though the consequences from your action may remain. The fact that you receive mercy for sinning against God is more grace than you deserve.

Verse 11-13: The nation of Israel had broken the law of God. They made the choice to sin. They were not ignorant of what they had done wrong. They knew what God required of them yet made the decision to live life on their own terms and in their own way. They refused to obey the commands of God. The Lord had warned them of the punishment. In fact, at the beginning of Israel's history, hundreds of years before in the Law of Moses, God had told them this:

Leviticus 26:33

³³ I will scatter you among the nations and will draw out my sword and pursue you. Your land will be laid waste, and your cities will lie in ruins.

Israel had been warned. They knew the ultimate consequence yet they broke the law. Sadly, even despite the consequences, Israel did not turn back to God. The Lord had punished His people but they were not learning from the consequences.

Often, God punishes us. He is just in doing so. Yet, we are too busy focusing on getting out of the consequences, or blaming God and others, or ignoring the problem that we miss learning the lesson God is teaching us. We need to turn from our sin and dig into the truth, the Word of God.

Verse 14: In punishing our sins, God is right. He will carry out His justice. Will we learn from it or continue in transgressing the law? God never changes. However, we have the opportunity to be reformed. We must choose to do so.

Application

Think through the justice of God in your life. Thank Him for His justice and love shown to you for He is your heavenly Parent.

What lessons can we learn from the prayer of Daniel?

How can the justice of God relate to His love and mercy?

Does God always give us warnings of impending judgment?



Today's Scripture:

Psalm 73

The Word

The justice of God, just like all of His attributes, is timeless. He has always and will always possess this quality. He is justice. He is the embodiment of justice. He is the perfect example of justice. His justice is complete. There is no escaping His judgment. He will judge the world. He alone has the right to judge the world for He created the world, created moral law, and is capable of enforcing the law. Every person will be held accountable.

Sometimes, though, we look around the world and wonder when the judgment will take place. We see people get away with crimes. We watch evil people prosper. We hear about cruel tyrants who oppress their people. We wonder, "What is the point of doing what is right when it seems the sinners get to enjoy the good life?" We are not the first to ask this same question. A man named Asaph asked the same thing thousands of years ago.

¹A psalm of Asaph.

Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

²But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.

³For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

⁴They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong.

⁵They are free from the burdens common to man; they are not plagued by human ills.

⁶Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence.

⁷From their callous hearts comes iniquity; the evil conceits of their minds know no limits.

⁸They scoff, and speak with malice; in their arrogance they threaten oppression.

⁹Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth.

¹⁰Therefore their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance.

¹¹They say, "How can God know? Does the Most High have knowledge?"

¹²This is what the wicked are like—always carefree, they increase in wealth.

¹³Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence.

¹⁴All day long I have been plagued; I have been punished every morning.

¹⁵If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed your children.

¹⁶When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me

¹⁷till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.

¹⁸Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin.

¹⁹How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors!

²⁰As a dream when one awakes, so when you arise, O Lord, you will despise them as fantasies.

²¹When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered,

²²I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.

²³Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand.

²⁴You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.

²⁵Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

²⁶My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

²⁷Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.

²⁸But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.

Verse 1-3: God had been good to Israel. However, Asaph stopped focusing on the goodness of God and instead began looking around at the world. He saw the prosperity of the wicked and began to envy their wealth. Previously, he had stood firm on the goodness of God in his life. But as soon as he took his eyes off God and placed them onto others, he fell into sin. He almost completely lost his grip on the reality of life for he became more obsessed with the material world.

Verse 4-5: Asaph began not only noticing the possessions of others but also began looking at the people themselves. From the outside looking in, it seems that these people have it all together. They have no problems. They look good. They live good. Everything they have is good. The Good God of Israel is no longer in the picture. Instead the “good life” of others is all that is in Asaph’s view.

Verse 6-12: The more he gawks at them, the more of reality he sees. These people are evil. They are proud, violent, arrogant, calloused sinners. They live for themselves. They conceive evil without any concern for consequences. They oppress people in word and action. They belittle others in order to set themselves up on a pedestal. Sadly, people come to them in adoration and praise. They believe they are above the law of God and that He is harmless to their evil ways. They continue to grow in sin without regret.

Verse 13-16: As Asaph continues to compare himself to the wealthy wicked, he gets depressed. He throws a pity party and he is the guest of honor. He does not “count his blessings” but instead he “counts his miseries”. Like a scratched CD, he is stuck on everything that has ever gone wrong in his life. He does not speak to anyone about his dilemma. So, he wallows in it. Finally, however, he brings His concern to God.

Verse 17: In the presence of God, he realizes the truth. His viewpoint is lifted from the here and now and brought to rest on eternity.

Verse 18-20: They are on slippery ground. They are the ones who truly will fall in the end. They will be judged by God. He will cast them to ruin and destruction. The judgment they will receive will be frightening. It will also happen without notice and will take place suddenly. They will be forgotten forever. All the fame they increased on earth will be brought to nothing. All their wealth will not be able to save them. Their punishment will be complete. It will take place in God’s time.

Verse 21-26: When we take our eyes off of God and focus on this world, we think and act in despicable ways. We become what we hate. We treat God the same way as unbelievers. How quickly our lives can be turned away from God. Yet, He is so faithful to us. He stays with us even when we are having a love affair with the world. He leads us back into His ways. There we realize how temporary our life is and that all things of the world will pass away. We are heading to heaven. Each day brings us one day closer to glory. Why look at things which will one day melt away? Our eyes should be looking to eternity where we will behold Jesus face to face. He is all that we need. Our material possessions, our bodies, our reputations are nothing that will last. Only the ways of God will stand firm forever. Let go of the temporal. Invest in the eternal.

Verse 27-28: The justice of God will occur. He will punish the wicked. But until that time, you have a choice. Will you look toward the world and envy it or will you look to God and long for Him? He alone is the refuge from the judgment on the wicked. Realize this truth. The wicked will be judged. You are not to envy the wicked but to warn them. Tell them of God. Let them begin to envy you and your peace in these difficult days in which we live. May you lead them to salvation so that they, too, may find refuge in God from His judgment.

Application

Confess any envy you have in your life. Thank God that He never lets go of your hand even when you are trying to chase the world.

How do you envy the wicked?

How can we turn from envy to evangelism?



Today's Scripture:
Revelation 19:11-21

The Word

The Book of Revelation proclaims the judgment which will be poured out on the earth during the tribulation. The tribulation is a term for the seven years proceeding the return of Christ as King reigning over the earth. These seven years are marked by God inflicting punishment on a world that is in open rebellion against His law. The verses we will study are the last event of the tribulation, at the end of seven years.

Revelation 19:11-21

¹¹I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. ¹²His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. ¹³He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. ¹⁴The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. ¹⁶On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

¹⁷And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, ¹⁸so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great."

¹⁹Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. ²⁰But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. ²¹The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

Verse 11-13: Heaven is opened up. We are given a picture of Jesus. Really study this picture. It is so different from the one we usually have in

our heads. Often the paintings of Jesus show Him as a waif. He looks so thin that you are afraid He might fall over if there was a good wind. If that is how you think Jesus is like, get ready for the truth of Him in heaven.

Ladies, He is a knight in shining armor on a white horse. He is called Faithful and True. What a nickname! You're often labeled with your attributes: funny, cranky, moody, etc. Jesus is Faithful and True. You can count on Him. He is always the same yesterday, today, and forever. You can trust Him for He is always honest.

Guys, you'll like this: "With justice He judges and makes war." Jesus is the best court room drama (by the way, Jack Nicholson, He can handle the truth) and He is an action movie all rolled up into One! How does He handle all this? With justice. He does not condemn people or fight them just because He has had a bad day. He does all of this with justice.

How does He look? His eyes blaze like fire. Can you imagine having God look at you? He would burn through all your pretenses and cut straight to the heart of you. He has many crowns on His head for He alone deserves to rule. The people on earth are in rebellion against the only One who belongs on the Throne! Ladies, back to you. Jesus is mysterious. He has a name on Him that only He knows. A name that no one has blasphemed. A name that no person has used to manipulate others. A name that has never been denied or questioned. Guys, only you can appreciate this: he is dressed in a robe of blood. Talk about intimidating! The Word of God is powerful. He is a Person. He is alive, active, and amazing. Remember that when you study the Word!

Verse 14: For any of you who ever desired to live out a video game, your chance is coming. Christ could conquer the world Himself, yet He is going to let us ride with Him. We will be the John Wayne of heaven! We will be looking good in our fine, white, clean linen. We will be grateful for the fact that it was the blood covering from Jesus that has enabled us to be riding with Him in judgment instead of being the receivers of our rightful punishment.

Verse 15-16: The sword, the judgment of God, is released. The Word of God is the law of God which is enforced by God. This is the time for "The Enforcer" and He is coming to take over. He will rule the world as the King. No one will be able to compare to Him. His judgment will be with fury and wrath. It will be complete. When a King conquers, He takes over completely.

Verse 17-18: This is a visual picture of the judgment of God being complete. There will be no more punishment inflicted at this time. All the

people who are still in rebellion against God will be judged. There will be no bias on prestige or position. Justice will be equally applied to all.

Verse 19: War against Jesus. War against His ways. War against His Word. War against His people. This takes place today. The war may not be with actual weapons but it takes place within the heart. People are at war with God.

Verse 20-21: Justice is served. The wrath of God is poured out and rightfully so. For He is Faithful and True even in His judgment. Picture with me this scene. Thousands of bodies lay in a field. Blood is oozing out of the corpses. Birds are ripping flesh off their bodies. The birds have blood dripping from their mouths. Gouges are left in the skin of the deceased. Am I grossing you out? This is nothing compared to the picture of hell. Those who are at war with God right now are facing an eternity of judgment. The justice of God will be poured out on them. You may know someone who right now stands under the reality of God's future judgment on their souls in hell. Will you tell them about the Rider on the horse? Will you tell them about the Faithful and True, the Word of God, the King of kings, the Lord of lords? Will you tell them about the robe of blood that He wore before it was stripped from Him so they could hang Him naked on a wooden cross? Will you explain to them that He received the justice of God poured out on Him so we do not have to have the justice poured out on us? Instead of facing torment, we can look forward to riding triumphantly wearing white robes: clean robes, washed because of the blood of Christ.

Application

You deserved hell. Yet, God, through His gift of Jesus gives you eternal life in heaven. Praise Him for this amazing gift.

Do you believe that heaven and hell is real? If so, what are their purposes?

If we believe in heaven and hell, how can we live out the reality?

Do you struggle with the concept of hell? Why do you think that is?

DAY
5

Today's Scripture:

Isaiah 42:1-4, Matthew 20:28, Romans 3:21-26

The Word

Justice often evokes images of crime and punishment. Yet, that is only one side of justice. For those living within the laws of the land, it is an image of safety and security. If we are victimized, we want to know that the guilty will be condemned. If we follow the laws, then we want to be ensured that we will live in safety from prison. For those who live in obedience, justice is a sweet comfort, protecting us even when we do not realize it.

Isaiah 42:1-4

- ¹ *"Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him
and he will bring justice to the nations.*
- ² *He will not shout or cry out,
or raise his voice in the streets.*
- ³ *A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.
In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;*
- ⁴ *he will not falter or be discouraged
till he establishes justice on earth.
In his law the islands will put their hope."*

Verse 1: One of the most amazing titles of Jesus is Servant. The King of kings humbled Himself to come and serve us. His service involved the ultimate sacrifice.

Matthew 20:28

28...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

The one who did not receive justice, the innocent Lamb who was slaughtered on a cross will be the instrument of God to bring justice to all the nations. By the power of God the justice of God will be brought to all the earth.

Verse 2: The justice of God will not be forced upon anyone for they are under His justice whether they believe it or not. The justice of God does not come by a sudden riot. The justice of God has always been in existence. This attribute of God always was and always will be. However, the evidence of His justice will become more apparent as the nations are brought under His justice.

Verse 3: The justice of God is not oppressive. He does not wish to break us. He will not take us hurting and wounded from the injustices of life and then painfully inflict His justice on us. Instead, His justice will actually care for us. He is faithful to us in our need. His justice actually will bring us healing. How is that possible?

Romans 3:21-26

21But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, 23for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25God 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— 26he 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.

Verse 21-26: We were not right. We had broken the law. But the Law and Prophets, the Word of God, testified about a way for us to be justified before God. By having faith in Jesus, we sinners are justified by grace. This means that our transgressions are no longer held against us. Instead,

our punishment was inflicted on Jesus. God is just, the price of sin had to be paid. Jesus made the payment, He took our place. We were on death row and He opened up the door and set us free while He was executed in our stead. That is how justice can bring us healing. Look back in Isaiah 42:3 again.

Verse 3: We had no hope in ourselves. We were bruised reeds and smoldering wicks, so Jesus served us by taking our place. He was bruised for us and His life was snuffed out. But in this He was faithful to Himself for justice had to be carried out. Justice had to be inflicted on us or Him. He chose Himself to save us.

Verse 4: The justice that was carried out on the cross will continue to be proclaimed throughout the earth. Over time, more and more people will accept by faith His work on the cross so that they will be established in His justice. He is and will be the hope for the world.

Not only do we see the kindness of His justice in our hearts, but we will actually live under His justice. His law will be world law. One day, when He returns to earth, He will rule every nation. Every person will know that justice will be faithfully carried out in every aspect of their lives. Then, and only then, will there be peace on earth.

Application

Spend time in praise of the Servant who died for us in order that we may be justified before God.

How has your view of justice changed this week?

What will the world be like when Christ reigns?

How has justice changed your life?

