

Passion for Justice

***“Justice and judgment are the habitation of Thy throne:
Mercy and truth shall go before Thy face” Psalm 89:14.***

Lover of Justice

The Lord loves justice (Psalm 37:28a). He delights in judgment as it actively moves and accomplishes His kingdom purposes: *“But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord, exercising loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the Lord*” (Jeremiah 9:24 nkjv).

God is violently passionate about His judgment and justice having its way. Revelation 19 tells us that Jesus judges and makes war by justice: *“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war”* (Revelation 19:11 nkjv). Isaiah 28 reveals justice as the warring standard that eliminates the enemy’s operations: *“I will make justice the measuring line, and righteousness the plummet. The hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters will overflow the hiding place”* (Isaiah 28:17 nkjv).

God intends for His divine justice to be released in the earth by His Church in two crucial ways: prayer and faith-filled acts of justice. For the Church to be effective justice ambassadors, we must understand the ways of God’s Eternal Throne and the heart of Him who abides there. As reconcilers on earth... as justice releasers... we must know our God and His heart of justice.

Holy Justice

Justice and judgment define holy characteristics of Almighty God. To help us better understand these two words—*justice* and *judgment*—let’s examine Psalm 89:14a: ***“Justice and judgment are the habitation of Thy throne.”***

As we study the word *justice* we find it means:

- righteousness, rectitude, virtue, prosperity¹
- acting in accord with divine or moral law; free from guilt or sin (righteousness²)
- moral integrity, the quality or state of being correct in judgment or procedure (rectitude³)
- a particular moral excellence (virtue⁴)
- the condition of being successful or thriving (prosperity⁵)

Justice is, essentially, God's righteousness. God's justice is divine, holy, pure, incorruptible, and excellent in every way. God and His kingdom prosper in His justice; His kingdom thrives with justice. We could say God *is* justice, just as He *is* righteousness.

Judgment, in Psalm 89:14, is defined as:

- a verdict (favorable or unfavorable) pronounced judicially, especially a sentence or formal decree. The verdict includes the act, the place, the suit, the crime, and the penalty⁶
- justice, including a particular right, or privilege⁷
- to judge, pronounce sentence for or against; to vindicate or punish; to govern; to litigate⁸
- to make authoritative pronouncements⁹
- to arbitrate, or settle disputes¹⁰

We find that judgment is the act of deciding a case, which brings vindication or punishment. God delights in issuing holy and excellent verdicts from His judgment seat. God's justice and judgment removes anything that is unholy. He delights in bringing justice by releasing captives from Satan's slavery. God's just character is revealed when bodies are freed from cancer's grip with His judgment of healing.

The Lord's Divine nature is expressed with His excellent virtue of justice. He finds expression of His excellency by hammering His holy gavel on behalf of the oppressed, issuing death verdicts to Satan's plans. Our heavenly Father loves to bring vindication upon Satan and establish His dominion through the saints. His ultimate decree of judgment was pronounced through the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Seated in Justice

Through Daniel's writings we know God as the Ancient of Days who sits in judgment: *"I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of Days did sit... a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him: thousand thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened"* (Daniel 7:9-10 kjv).

God, the Ancient of Days, did sit... Sit means to dwell, to sit down as judge, to remain, to marry.¹¹ As God sits in His seat of authority He dwells with everlasting justice, as married to justice. Scripture plainly tells us that righteousness and justice are the foundation and habitation of God's throne:

- *"Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne"* (Psalm 97:2b kjv).
- *"Justice and judgment are the **habitation** of Thy throne"* (Psalm 89:14a kjv).

Habitation is defined as fixture, a basis, foundation, especially as an abode. It can also mean establish, render sure, prosperous.¹² We can say God's throne abides in justice and judgment; it is established, rendered sure, and prosperous in justice and judgment. The Holy God who established His Throne in justice and judgment remains there, with no intention of ever changing His mind.

God's Throne is eternal, just as He is. He rests in His reign as the undisputed hailed Judge over all creation. Our heavenly Father is glorified in His judgment. *"But the Lord of Hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness" (Isaiah 5:16 kjv)*. All of His ways are judgment and His work is perfect: *"...He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He" (Deuteronomy 32:4 kjv)*.

Justice and Mercy Together

Mercy is the highest order of justice, according to James 2:13: *"Mercy triumphs over judgment."* Justice and mercy work together. His justice does not compromise mercy, and His mercy does not compromise His justice. These two attributes complement each other and work to define the other.

Inherent in our God of justice is mercy and grace, the love of God, His goodness and kindness. The God of the entire universe desires to see His justice manifest upon the earth. His desires are not denied. Throughout history the Righteous Judge sits on His throne administering grace and mercy to undeserving people. Our awesome God generously distributes divine justice to the poor and the fatherless. Throughout His Word we find Him speaking to us about this issue:

- *"He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing" (Deut. 10:18 nkjv).*
- *"To do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, That the man of the earth may oppress no more" (Psalm 10:18 nkjv).*
- *"He will bring justice to the poor of the people; He will save the children of the needy, and will break in pieces the oppressor" (Psalm 72:4 nkjv).*
- *"When God arose to judgment, to deliver all the oppressed of the earth" (Psalm 76:9 nkjv).*
- *"Thus says the Lord: 'Execute judgment and righteousness, and deliver the plundered out of the hand of the oppressor. Do no wrong and do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, or the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place'" (Jer. 22:3 nkjv).*

From God's divine throne of justice *"mercy and truth go before Your face" (Psalm 89:14b nkjv)*. In other words, mercy and truth are projected before Him, meet before Him, hasten

before Him (go¹³). Where Father abides, mercy and truth also abide. Mercy and truth cannot be separated from God's justice; they live together at the Throne.

Mercy—kindness and beauty¹⁴-- are always before the face of God. Throughout eternity the God of the Universe embraces compassion or favor, with a willingness to spare or to help (mercy¹⁵). God's throne of justice is wrapped in life, wrapped in mercy. Revelation 4:3 describes a fantastic emerald-green rainbow found encircling the Throne. Could this rainbow be a picture of God's mercy surrounding His throne?

Truth convenes with mercy, surrounding God's heavenly throne. God's throne is enhanced with truth—stability, certainty, trustworthiness, faithfulness, surety.¹⁶ God is Truth (*John 14:6*).

You cannot help but adore this God of justice. Oh, the beauty of His justice and righteousness at His throne, settled in its foundation. The Lord God Almighty sits upon justice and righteousness. Oh, to know this just God in His glory! We long to see His righteous kingdom released upon the earth and the world benefit from the kindness of justice. Release Your loving judgments, Almighty God, that will separate us from the wicked schemes of the enemy and bring us into Your Divine grace and presence, made available to all.

Our hearts rejoice in You, O God, for "*Zion hears and is glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoice because of Your judgments, O Lord*" (*Psalms 97:8 kjv*). Together, we will sing of Your mercy and justice (*Psalms 101:1a*). We find comfort in Your arms of justice (*Isaiah 51:5*).

[Sharon Gonzales, ©2010 Joseph International, derived from "Justice Wrapped in Mercy,"
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1 Justice H6666/6663. *New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*; 2 Righteousness. *Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of English Usage*; 3 Rectitude. *Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of English Usage*; 4 Virtue. *Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of English Usage*; 5 Prosperity. *Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of English Usage*; 6 Judgment H4941. *New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*; 7 Ibid; 8 Ibid; 9 Motyer, J.A. (1993). *The Prophecy of Isaiah: An Introduction and Commentary*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press; 10 Ibid; 11 Sit H3488/3427. *New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*; 12 Habitation H4349/3559. *New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*; 13 Go H9243. *New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*; 14 Mercy H6516. *New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*; 15 Ibid; 16 Truth H571. *New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*.]