

Kingdom Justice Bible Study

This is a word study of the Hebrew word *mishpat* translated in English most often as “justice”. God is the source of *mishpat*. *Mishpat* is the order of compassionate justice that God has created and on which the whole universe depends. *Mishpat* is a proper judgement, process, ordinance, decision or proper and fitting plan. Kingdom justice is consistent with the character of God. Kingdom justice is a righteous world order and always points to God.

Please look up and read the following Bible passages, recording a few words about what each scripture says about justice. You can split up the sections among the people you are worshipping with or take your time and do this alone. If you do it as a group, have each person read their verse and share what you learned with one another. Depending on your available time, you may wish to do some of this now and come back to finish it later.

Characteristics of God’s Justice

Gen. 18:25 Right
Ps.89:14 Foundation of God’s Throne
Deut.24:17-21 Generosity for those who can’t care for themselves:
Foreigner and orphan
Ps.112:5
Ps.9:16
Ezek.34:16
Micah 3:8

Part of Covenant Blessings & Curses when Israel Entered Promised Land

Deut. 27:19
Deut. 30:16

More Blessings:

1 Kings 2:3
Ps. 106:3

Scope of God's Justice

Num.9:14 Nationals and Foreigners
Deut. 1:17 Impacts all matters
Ex. 23:6 Lawsuits
Prov. 16:8
Prov. 29:4
Jer. 22:3 Sanctity of Life
Amos 5:15
Mal. 3:5
Is. 58:6-7 Care of Family Members

How God Feels About Justice

Is. 61:8
Micah 6:8

When We Act Justly

Deut. 11:1 We show our love for God
2 Chron.19:6 We act on behalf of God who is watching
Prov. 21:3
Prov. 21:15
Zeph. 2:3

God's Activity in Justice

Ps. 25:9 God guides humble in right (just) way
Ps.103:6
Ps. 140:12
Jer.1:16
Deut. 10:18

Once you have completed this study and discussed your findings, listen to Part 2 of today's sermon on Isaiah 42:1-9.

Sermon Discussion Questions for After Sermon Part 2 on Isaiah 42:1-9

1. What was something you learned about kingdom justice? Explain.

2. God says in Isaiah 42:9

See, the former things have taken place,
and new things I declare;
before they spring into being
I announce them to you.”

One commentator pointed out that when God says He is doing a new thing, it will always be consistent with all He has done in the past and what He has promised for the future. How does this quote apply to the topic of kingdom justice? (Hint: Look again at Deut. 27:19, Deut. 30:16 and then read Matthew 25:31-40.)

3. “The world is attracted by embodied compassion and righteousness.” Who comes to mind as you think about people who have modeled being servants of kingdom justice?

4. As you want to grow in being servants of justice, read over this list and share your thoughts, or additional ideas, on these suggestions:

- a. Intercede-spend time in prayer asking God to break off selfishness and any cultural or thought process that doesn't align with His kingdom justice. Ask God to help you love people more.
- b. Get Informed-notice people and their needs. Ask questions. Learn more about immigration reform, antiracism training, or health care reform.
- c. Get Involved-consider a gift to our benevolence fund. Be advocates. Be active in ways the Lord would direct you, for His glory and the good of those who are weak, hurting and marginalized, as you joyfully follow in the steps of Jesus.

5. Isaiah 42:3 says “A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.” What do these images symbolize and what does this show about the character of God's servant?

6. Who do you know, or know about, who might be considered poor, broken, bruised, burned out, struggling, weak, or oppressed right now? Take turns sharing the person or situation that comes to mind (or journal if doing this study alone) and then close your time in prayer, asking God how you might serve.