



Message 8-26-17
Shoftim-Judges
Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9
Isaiah 51:12-52:12
Romans 9:30-33

Introduction

“Justice, justice shall you pursue” was to guide the primary arms of authority in Biblical Israel: judges, kings, priests, and prophets. The Israelites are to appoint judges in each settlement, they are commanded to show impartiality in all cases brought before them, and they are not to accept a bribe.

Deuteronomy 16:18-20

18 You shall appoint judges and officials throughout your tribes, in all your towns that the LORD your God is giving you, and they shall render just decisions for the people. ¹⁹ You must not distort justice; you must not show partiality; and you must not accept bribes, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of those who are in the right. ²⁰ **Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue**, so that you may live and occupy the land that the LORD your God is giving you. (NRS)

Over and over the Lord instructs the Israelites about justice and the role of judges in this. Judges are to treat everyone the same. The rich do not get special treatment, and the poor are to be treated equally as well. The Lord is very consistent about this, and when the system becomes lop-sided, the Holy One will bring it back into balance. He expects more from His people than He does from the other nations.

Genesis 18:19 For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him." (ESV)

Righteousness and justice go hand in hand according to the Lord's standards. The promise to Abraham is based on these very principles, and by Abraham doing these, the promise the Lord made to him will happen, and perhaps it did not happen in his lifetime, but it did happen later. The Lord is a righteous and just God, and He must bring His word to fruition. The covenant He made must happen or else the Lord has not spoken the truth, and we know the Lord does not lie. It is impossible for a righteous Being to be able to do this.

Isaiah 45:23 By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: 'To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.' (ESV)

Who else has the power to swear by Himself. The Hebrew word used for swearing can also be translated as promised, and that lines up with what the Lord said about His covenant with those from the beginning. Adam to Seth to Enoch to Noah, Shem, Abraham down to Messiah. Who is the one the Father gave all He had? It was through Yeshua that all would happen. Every jot and every tittle recorded in the Bible must come to fruition. If not, all has been in vain, and the Holy One would not do this. This is not in His nature. It may be in man's nature to break the covenant and forget the promise, but it is not part of who God is. His covenant has been sealed by the blood of His Son who did as the Father asked. The Son submitted Himself to the will of the Father in perfect accordance with His will and not His own. Even in that moment in the Garden of Gethsemane when Yeshua asked the Father if the cup could pass from Him, He still gave Himself over to the Father completely as He has been from before the beginning.

The beginning applies to all the physical world and to God who has existed before and will exist beyond the end. Justice is what would keep the people of Israel rooted in the land by their following the Torah of the Holy One of Israel as given to His servant Moses. It was not Moses' Torah, it was the Lord's because it is embodied in His Son who is part of Him in a way we might one day understand. Could it be along the same lines as Adam and Chavah when the Lord created Chavah from out of Adam. Did He take part of Himself to bring His Son into existence, or was He simply showing us that as Adam and Chavah were meant to be one, because one cannot exist without the other, they were one in the beginning, and they will always be one just as the Father and the Son are one?

Exodus 23:2 You shall not fall in with the many to do evil, nor shall you bear witness in a lawsuit, siding with the many, so as to pervert justice, ³ nor shall you be partial to a poor man in his lawsuit. ⁴ "If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall bring it back to him. ⁵ If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying down under its burden, you shall refrain from leaving him with it; you shall rescue it with him. ⁶ "You shall not pervert the justice due to your poor in his lawsuit. ⁷ Keep far from a false charge, and do not kill the innocent and righteous, for I will not acquit the wicked. ⁸ And you shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the clear-sighted and subverts the cause of those who are in the right. (ESV)

You shall not fall in with those who do evil. You shall not bear witness in a lawsuit to side with the many to pervert justice. The innocent and the righteous shall be treated properly, and the wicked will not be acquitted. While this pertains to judges, it can also apply to all of us. As the Holy One of Israel is just and righteous, we are to follow His example and that of His Son who He sent show us the way. We wandered off the road, and He is bringing us back if we are willing to follow Him. Which way will you travel? He set the path. Will you follow?

Isaiah 51:4-8

4 Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for *Torah* will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended. ⁷ Listen to me, you who know righteousness, you people who have my *Torah* in your hearts; do not fear the reproach of others, and do not be dismayed when they revile you. ⁸ For the moth will eat them up like a garment, and the worm will eat them like wool; but my deliverance will be forever, and my salvation to all generations. (NRS)

We are His nation, His people. Israel is His covenant people, but not all who are part of Israel belong in Israel. The Shaliach Shaul wrote that because someone might be born into Israel, it does not mean he is meant to be there. His nation must follow Torah and have faith in the Messiah Yeshua. The Torah will go out from Him and His justice as a light to the peoples. With this comes salvation and deliverance. Other translations do not use deliverance. They use salvation, but what does it mean to have salvation and deliverance? Deliverance is defined **as the action of being rescued or set free**. Salvation is defined in two ways. The first way is from a non-religious standpoint as: **preservation or deliverance from harm, ruin, or loss**. From a theological perspective, it is defined as: **deliverance from sin and its consequences, believed by Christians to be brought about by faith in Christ**. In both cases, I see the same action happening. If you are rescued or set free by Messiah, isn't this the same as being saved or redeemed? It is a conscious act on our part to receive it.

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁶ "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. (NRS)

What is it we will receive? In Noah's day, the people were ignorant of what was about to happen to them. They were going about their lives as though everything was all right, but it was not. The Lord found fault with them and could no longer bear their rebellion against His ways. He would not contend with them any longer. The day is coming when another catastrophe is coming. The Lord has been warning us for so long that most of us take His words for granted. But we are told His words will not pass away. They must happen. As He spoke in the beginning, Creation came in to existence. Everything in heaven and earth was brought about by the word of the Almighty through His Son Yeshua, and yet Messiah tells us that the day and the hour no one knows, not the angels or the Son, but only the Father. When it happens we will know – are you ready for what is coming?

Romans 9:30-33

30 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; ³¹ but Israel, pursuing a Torah of righteousness, did not arrive at *that* Torah. ³² Why? Because *they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works.* They stumbled over the stumbling stone, ³³ just as it is written, "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." [Isa. 28:16, 8:14] (NAU)

To reach the goal of Torah, the way God desires us to, we must come to it through faith in Messiah. It is not guaranteed to Israel because the word has gone out to the nations, and they can share in this gift if they come to it in faith by living a life that is righteous. But Israel has stumbled because they have allowed the Messiah to become a stumbling block, have closed their hearts to Him, and seek redemption, not through faith in Messiah but in following the Torah, the Torah of the rabbis, instead of the living Torah, the living word Yeshua!

Isaiah 28:16 therefore thus says the Lord GOD, See, I am laying in Zion a foundation stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation: "One who trusts will not panic." (NRS)

This foundation is Messiah because you cannot build on a foundation of sand, for the waters come and wash it away. If you build on a foundation of Messiah, all will be right, and you will be ready for what is to come.

1 Corinthians 1:23 but we preach Messiah crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness. (NAU)

Rav Shaul, the Apostle Paul, wrote these words, and never have truer words ever been written. Mankind struggles with giving themselves over to Messiah to place their faith in a Messiah who was crucified. He was and is an obstacle to the Jews, and the nations see Him being foolish, an old wives' tale. Men rise and tell us they are the only way out of the problems we find ourselves in and are to believe in them, but to place your trust and faith in men is the height of foolishness. No man can save us. No man can redeem us. Only the Son of God can do this!

Isaiah 8:14 And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. (ESV)

Messiah Yeshua will cause Israel to wrestle with the reality He brings to them. The nations will struggle as well. After 9-11, the churches and synagogues saw an increase in people coming in to try to make sense out of what was happening. Today, a freeze is spreading over mankind, and churches and synagogues struggle to bring the people in with them. What will it take to bring them back, not back to the churches and synagogues, but back

to God and to give themselves over to Yeshua, the only way, who will fix what is wrong with the world? God has given us His plan. Will you follow it?

I will close with this: ***Torah Man says: "Trust God without terms."***

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

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