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Justice

A biblical examination and application in today's climate

By Ryan Tolan

Start with God

- **Deuteronomy 32:4** – "The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.
 - The people of Israel worship God following reading the Word, fasting, confessing of sins and feasting in exile: **Nehemiah 9:13** – "Then You came down on Mount Sinai, And spoke with them from heaven; You gave them just ordinances and true laws, Good statutes and commandments.
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“Just” Definition

- “Right” or that which is deemed right by God
 - “Justice” and “righteousness” are synonyms sometimes used interchangeably
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The Doomed of Justice δικη

- 2 Thess. 1:9 – These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power
 - See Jude 1:7
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Abuse of Justice ^{ישׁר}

- Deuteronomy 12:8 – "You shall not do at all what we are doing here today, every man doing whatever is ***right*** in his own eyes
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The Blessed of Justice

- 1 John 1:9 – If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
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Gentle

ἐπιεικῆς

- Keeping with the spirit of the law, and not exercise strictness using the law
 - Withholding power that can be exercised
 - Can be used to provide equitable justice
 - Examples that list that we should be gentle
 - Php. 4:5
 - 1 Timothy 3:3
 - Titus 3:2
 - James 3:17
 - 1 Peter 2:18
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Parable on Prayer and Justice (Luke 18)

- Prayer is a part of justice because God is the source of justice
 - 1 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, 2 saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man.
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Parable on Prayer and Justice

(Luke 18) ἐκδικέω; ἀντίδικος; ἀδικία

- 3 There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.' 4 For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'" 6 And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge * said;
 - See Rev. 19:2 "avenged"
 - See 1 Peter 5:8 "your adversary, the devil"
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Enacting Vindictive Justice (Luke

18) ἐκδίκησις

- Luke 18:7-8 - 7 now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? 8 I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"
 - See also 2 Thess. 1:8 “retribution” or Romans 12:19/ Hebrews 10:30 (Deut. 32:35) “vengeance is mine”
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Implication of Innocence

δίκαιος

- Luke 18:9 - And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt
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Justice through Christ κρίσιω

- **1 Peter 3:18** - For Christ also died for sins once for all, the **just** for the **unjust**, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit
 - **John 5:30** – “I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I **judge**; and My **judgment** is **just**, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”
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To Judge or not to Judge

- To judge
 - 1 Corinthians 5 “remove the wicked man from among yourselves”
 - Matthew 18:15-20 - perform church discipline
 - Luke 17:3-6 - Rebuke, Repent, Forgive, Repeat
 - Not to judge
 - Matthew 7:1 - Do not be a hypocrite
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Application

- Start with God
 - You can stand for your rights (see Paul in Acts 22:22-29)
 - Watch your tongue! (James 3:1-12)
 - Be wise, not just smart (James 3:13-18)
 - Be (up)right by choosing the truth
 - Stop giving into lies
 - Understand what someone has said and why they have said it before you agree and repeat it
 - If you haven't studied with discernment, keep studying...
then study more
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