

The Justice of God

Lesson for Sunday, July 20, 2025

Key Text: Deuteronomy 32:4

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Can you think of a situation that seemed to be unjust? What did you hope would happen? If you could have done something about the situation, what would you have done?
- ⇒ We all long for justice. Everyone intuitively recognizes that we are surrounded by injustices that need to be made just.
- ⇒ This is primarily because we live in a broken world. But the Christian has hope! Our hope is that one day, the injustices of this world will be made right again. Why do we have this hope? Because the God we serve is just.

CONTEXT:

- ⇒ Deuteronomy 32 is known as “The Song of Moses.” It was given by God to Moses near the end of Moses’ life, just before the Israelites entered the Promised Land.
- ⇒ The context was solemn: Moses, having completed his long leadership and teaching, is preparing the people for his death.
- ⇒ God instructed Moses to compose and teach this song to Israel as a witness against the nation, warning them of the consequences of disobedience and apostasy.
- ⇒ The song would remind them of God’s faithfulness and justice, their obligations, and the certainty of divine judgment if they strayed.
- ⇒ The song encapsulates Moses’ teachings and serves as a perpetual reminder of God’s justice, Israel’s duty, and the hope of restoration after repentance.
- ⇒ After a brief call to heaven and earth as witnesses (vs. 1-3), the foundation of the song is stated in verse 4, and that is our text for our study on the justice of God.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. God’s Justice: Unchanging and Perfect
 - a. Verse 4 begins with the simple statement: God is the Rock. The imagery is to convey the idea that God’s nature is unchanging.
 - i. The theological term we use to describe this is immutability.
 - ii. Just as rocks seem unchanging in our experience, God’s character—including His justice—never wavers or erodes.
 - b. Also see Malachi 3:6. God, in all of His attributes never changes.
 - i. Apply: This ought to bring the Christian great comfort and stability.
 - ii. We don’t serve a God who is moody. We never have to wonder what He may do on a certain day.
 - iii. God is the Rock. His character is unchanging. We can count on Him and trust His Word.
 - c. The verse also teaches us that God is perfect in judgment.
 - i. Judgment is a legal word referring to God’s justice.
 - ii. It sometimes refers to a verdict pronounced judicially.
 - iii. Notice, “all His ways are judgment.” Every judgement pronounced by God is just. His actions are always right, fair, and consistent with His holy character. He never does evil and cannot act unjustly.
 - d. Putting the first part of this verse together, we can have confidence that God will always act justly. His justice is an attribute of His unchanging, Rock-like character.
2. God’s Justice is reflected in God’s Character
 - a. God’s justice is not an abstract concept but the very standard by which all justice is measured.

- b. His law reflects His perfect being and serves as the basis for all integrity and fairness in the world.
 - c. Look at the rest of verse 4: God is described as faithful and upright, without iniquity. This means He is always trustworthy and never acts out of malice or partiality.
 - i. Justice embodies the idea of moral equity, and iniquity is the exact opposite; it is in-equity, the absence of equality from human thoughts and actions.
 - ii. Judgment (or justice) is the application of equity to moral situations.
 - d. As believers, we long for justice as it often seems we are surrounded by a misappropriation of justice.
 - i. How often does it seem that justice depends on how clever one's representation might be, or how much money and influence one might hold?
 - ii. The fact that God is just gives us something to cling to! One day, every injustice will be made just by the Judge of the Universe.
3. God's Justice in Action
- a. Let's look at God's justice more closely.
 - b. When we say that God is just, we mean that...
 - i. He is perfectly righteous in His treatment of His creatures. God shows no partiality (Acts 10:34).
 - ii. He commands against the mistreatment of others (Zechariah 7:10), and He perfectly executes vengeance against the oppressors (2 Thessalonians 1:6; Romans 12:19).
 - iii. God is just in meting out rewards (Hebrews 6:10). He is equally just in meting out punishments (Colossians 3:25).
 - iv. Justice and righteousness, which always work hand in hand, are the foundation of God's throne (Psalm 89:14).
 - c. It is important to understand how God's justice and mercy can coexist. While God is merciful, He is also just and will judge injustice and wrongs.
 - i. The ultimate demonstration of God's justice and love is found at the cross.
 - ii. In Genesis 3, when man sinned, justice demanded action. For God to overlook or excuse the sin would not be just. Because God is just, He cannot make a rule, establish the penalty, and then not follow through when the rule is broken.
 - iii. Because God is also love, He had a way to satisfy justice without destroying human beings. Justice required the death penalty so something or someone had to die. A substitute was brought in to satisfy the demands of justice. A beautiful, flawless animal was killed instead (Genesis 3:21).
 - iv. Thousands of years later, justice was satisfied once and for all as God sent His own Son into the world to be our substitute (2 Corinthians 5:21).
 - v. Jesus became the Lamb (John 1:29) that God sacrificed on the altar of justice.

APPLICATION: Responding to God's Justice

- ⇒ Pursuing Justice (Micah 6:8): We are called to pursue justice in our own lives—standing against injustice, loving others, and reflecting God's character in our actions.
- ⇒ Trust God's Judgment: Even when we do not understand His ways, we can trust that God is always acting justly and faithfully. Our confidence is not in what we can explain or even understand. Our confidence is in our Rock whose ways are always just.