



**Justice
Wrapped
in Mercy**

Sharon Gonzales

Foreword by Diane Buker

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ISBN 1-59872-543-2

Library of Congress
2006934384

JUSTICE WRAPPED IN MERCY

ABOUT LIFE AS ONE MINISTRIES. *To Table of Contents*
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I am in them and You are in Me. John 17:21-23

IT IS OUR JOY to foster friendship with God among the nations by equipping leaders in life purpose, missions, and prayer. Our main prayer focus is toward life issues for global impact and for God's presence in all spheres of society.

In the mid-90's Jack and Sharon began facilitating intercessory worship sessions for cities and regions. Their primary purpose was to facilitate, encourage, and support the houses of prayer and prayer groups. Their teams of worshippers and intercessors established prayer rooms in central Florida.

Firmly set on the foundation of night and day prayer, their mission expanded into embracing God's presence in all of society. They co-founded Marketplace Alive, empowering people to embrace their strategic placement in the workforce and to impact their business, community and culture with passion for God. They launched small group business prayer in central Florida workplaces.

For several years Jack and Sharon lived in Kansas City, in community with the International House of Prayer (IHOPKC), as part of the night and day prayer movement. Sharon was part of the IHOPKC Russian-speaking International department. She also served as team leader for an international prophetic prayer and coaching ministry for business leaders.

Jack gave pastoral help to businessmen facing workplace challenges, encouraging them to live with integrity and hope in God's goodness. He operated a part-time consulting firm -- Project Management Consultants -- and has supervised large, demanding building projects throughout the United States for over 40 years.

Sharon intercedes for, teaches and encourages believers in Russian-speaking regions. Since 1999 she has loved Russian-speaking missions and ministers extensively in Russia and Ukraine. She works with various ministries, training and mentoring in prophetic ministry, prayer ministry, and personal development for kingdom purpose fulfillment. Together, Jack and Sharon believe for unprecedented justice to come to the Russian culture internationally. They are full-time missionaries to Russia and Ukraine.

FOREWORD

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In the course of my Kingdom life I have read a multitude of books, many of them excellent in their given fields. I cannot, however, remember one that has brought me closer to the Lord in the midst of such gentle but persuasive conviction as *Justice Wrapped in Mercy*.

Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary defines *conviction* as:

1. The act of finding, proving, or determining to be guilty of an offence.
2. Strong belief.
3. A convincing or being convinced.

Page after page, paragraph after paragraph I found my heart weeping because I realized I was guilty of not being a justice-bearer. Holy Spirit took sentence after sentence and convinced me that I have an ambassadorial appointment to bear – pray – war for the justice of the Lord in the midst of people's lives.

The purpose for Christ coming to the earth was to bring about a great transference of wealth ... men's souls transferred out of darkness and deposited into the Light. You see true wealth has nothing to do with money but everything to do with the lonely, the destitute, the sick, the bereaved and the needy coming into the richness of the Father's salvation. I think Holy Spirit expressed it best as He had the apostle James to pen, "Hearken, my beloved brethren, hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which He hath promised to them that love Him" (James 2:5).

I would imagine most of us have heard this expression: Some things can be taught but others caught. I have indeed been taught in reading this book, but by far have caught what the Spirit has had Sharon to pen.

For many years Sharon has positioned me as a spiritual mentor in her life. She will tell you that she has learned much from me. I can only say at the close of this Foreword that this mentor has learned much through her student.

Diane Buker

President & Founder, Battle Axe Brigade Ministries Inc.

Relational Staff, Glory of Zion International

Member of International Coalition of Apostles

(After the first edition of *Justice Wrapped in Mercy*, Diane went home to be with the Lord in 2010. She lived and prayed for the cause of justice, here in the U.S. and in numerous nations. Her first love was to worship the Lord and reveal His glory to men. Diane is greatly missed, but her influence lives on with the many people she influenced.)

PREFACE

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In merely 40 days, mercy prayers effected a 27% crime drop within the most violent crime district of Orlando, Florida. Drug lords moved out and slum apartments were demolished. Injustice evacuated. Two years later, the Orlando Police Department reported a further 20% crime reduction. The police chief publicly acknowledged that the 2-year prayer campaign conducted on the corner of Conley and Westmoreland, in the heart of the crime district, was the change agent for justice.¹

Experiencing God's changing power of mercy through H praying people skyrocketed my faith and challenged me for deeper compassion toward those robbed by injustice.

During the prayer power-encounter season Holy Spirit began to illuminate Songs 7:11-12:

“Come, my beloved; let us go forth to the field; let us lodge in the villages. Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine has budded, whether the grape blossoms are open, and the pomegranates are in bloom. There I will give you my love” (Songs 7:11-12).

Jesus invited me into an understanding of prevailing prayer, a place where He desired to reveal more of His love. *Lodge* became the focal word in this passage. *To lodge* in the village means to stop over, pass the night, abide and remain.² Many intercessors have faithfully applied the power of prayer walking, or onsite prayer—a way of going “forth to the field”—with one-time visits. The lodging aspect of onsite prayer—remaining in a place

until the fruit is manifested—has been missing from many onsite prayer initiatives. If we can receive a grace to lodge in the village, and function in that grace, we will see Jesus' love poured out into that area and watch the harvest come in.

Remaining focused upon a defined area of your city can set captives free from poverty, bondages and death. Jesus desires to see the beauty of His harvest field opened up to Him and brought into His kingdom. He longs for the injustices of the world to be stopped through His praying people.

For several years my husband and I have prayed for the area where we live. We have visited places of injustice and cried out for freedom of the captives. We long to see a violent prayer-army of justice-bearers who will impact crime statistics and salvation statistics.

This book was birthed through the desire to teach and inspire many to take their place as justice-bearers, spiritual crime stoppers, and governmental harvest reapers. It is designed to motivate prayer-action and to cultivate justice-prayer experiences.

End-of-chapter questions will help you transform your reading experience into a kingly mindset. It would be fun to explore these questions with your friends.

Simply and passionately, this book is written for the captives, with intercessory cries for their release. The written word of God in this book, and the truth teachings, testify of God's supreme justice power that ensures freedom for thousands, millions, billions. The book itself is

intercession for those who are presently held in darkness. We can spill out compassion for the fatherless, the orphans, the walking dead, by praying before Father God, seeking life through His Son Jesus. We are positioned in the heavenly court to bring justice to earth—deliverance into life. Justice corrects what is wrong, and brings what is right. Justice releases the captives.

Justice Wrapped in Mercy implores brothers and sisters of the Kingdom to exercise their ambassador authority for the sake of the destitute. The destitute are those who exist outside of the heart of Jesus Christ, outside of life, joy and peace. We can unify together— prayer closet to prayer closet, prayer group to prayer group, city to city— and become a powerful force on earth that cries, “Be restored to God!” Together we can travail for freedom from wickedness, freedom from the old man, freedom from carnality, freedom from being lost, and watch the dead turn to life, to Jesus the Life-giver.

May Holy Spirit speak to you and lead you as you joyfully embrace this call.

~*Sharon Gonzales*

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WHO ARE WE?

Disciples of Prayer

Praying saints grab heavenly mandates and stake them into the earth. Without prayer, it is impossible to fully bring the kingdom to earth. Disciples of prayer uniquely and powerfully help fulfill the Great Commission; they bridge heaven and earth, opening pathways for precious lives to enter into the heart of God.

After His work was finished on the earth Jesus Christ entrusted the fulfillment of the Kingdom on earth to the saints, the sons and daughters of Father God. Jesus proclaimed that we are the ones who will make the difference in the world, because He would be in us.

*“And Jesus...spoke unto them, saying, ‘All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost...’”
(Matthew 28:18-20).*

“... He who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father” (John 14:12).

Ministers of Reconciliation

Ministers of reconciliation—this is who we are. Because Jesus the Great Intercessor lives in us, the kingdom is brought to earth through us. As we abide in Jesus, Who forever lives to make intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25), we can be used to powerfully impact this earth and bring His glory to it:

“...All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...entrusting to us the message of reconciliation...” (2 Cor 5:18-19 RSV).

What is the ministry of reconciliation? The word *reconcile* means to call back into union and friendship the affections which have been alienated; to restore friendship or favor after estrangement.³ When we participate in reconciliation, we call forth restoration. We bring the lost and prodigals to Jesus.

Each time we pray asking for divine intervention in a situation, we are ministers of reconciliation, creating opportunity for unity between the earthly situation and God’s will. Reconciling the wrongs in the earth brings man close to God, drawing him into salvation, healing, hope and favor. What an exciting ministry!

Kingdom Ambassadors

We are not only created to be ministers of this reconciliation, but ambassadors as well:

“So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us” (2 Cor 5:20 RSV).

Ambassadors are diplomatic officials of the highest rank appointed and accredited as representatives in residence by one government or kingdom to another. Ambassadors are authorized messengers who are responsible for gathering information relating to their kingdom's policy and implementing their kingdom's policies abroad. They also safeguard citizens of their own country and their personal and commercial interests. Their residence is considered sovereign soil of the kingdom they represent.⁴ To do injury to an ambassador was to insult the king who sent him.⁵

Kingdom ambassadors are appointed by God to declare his will. Christians are ambassadors for Christ, entrusted with gathering information as it relates to His kingdom, making known the word of His kingdom, and implementing the policy of God's reconciliation. We represent God to all men, seek for the safety of fellow citizens, and bring reconciliation to all things given under our personal sphere of authority.

Kings and Judges

As righteous ones who enter God's heavenly courts with intercession cases, reconciliation ministers and diplomatic ambassadors are God's kings and judges on the earth. Kings and judges administrate God's justice on earth.

God's rulership is founded upon justice. His justice is the foundation of His throne, dominion, might and authority. With justice the earth is changed and people enter into the knowledge of Almighty God:

*“...For when Thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness”
(Isaiah 26:9b).*

Justice in the hands of a righteous judge brings life and revelation of God into the hearts of people. Justice invites the walking dead into the born-again life, making them new and right before God.

I submit to you that many intercessors in the Body of Christ lack understanding of this important intercessory key—the key of justice. This key, when gripped with understanding, operates like a sword that severs locks from prison house doors. Justice opens prison doors, removes captives from prison, and frees them into the kingdom of God. Justice cries for many to be born again.

It is time to publicize the power of justice, to grasp the understanding of God’s merciful justice and use it as a formidable weapon against poverty, death and hell. The following chapters assert justice’s commanding nature and our role in activating justice for the lost.

THE SPLAGCHNON GOD

Compassion Poured Out

Defining moments alter our heart's course. During a conference weekend several years ago I encountered one of those defining moments.

Deep waters of compassion began to stir within me as Jesus' merciful love was powerfully described by the conference speaker. The speaker focused on Jesus' anguishing desire to pour out His love upon those who had not yet received Him. He taught from this scripture passage: *"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd"* (Matthew 9:36).

In Matthew 9:36 **compassion** is the key word. To be moved with compassion means to have the bowels yearn, to have inward affection, to feel sympathy, and to pity.⁶ *Splagchnon* is the Greek root word for compassion.

Using this *splagchnon-compassion* definition, the conference speaker painted a picture of Matthew 9:36 for his listeners: Jesus, in the midst of teaching, preaching and healing, suddenly stopped and cast His eyes over the crowd. His face was already stained with trails of weeping. Deep within His bowels a fresh wave of Father's heart rose up, throwing Jesus to the ground in agonizing cries to Father. Jesus *moved* on the ground with compassion, in

compassion, in *splagchnon*. Divine compassion violently wept for these poor ones, the ones without a shepherd.

We can imagine Jesus crying out: “Father, on that hillside I proclaimed Your words: Blessed are the poor, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Grant these poor ones entrance into the kingdom. Arise, and decree justice to the poor. By Your command, Father, issue vengeance against the oppression that holds them back from You.”

At the cross, Jesus answered His own prayer.

Six months later, after the seed of His extravagant mercy was planted at the conference, I too find myself moving on the ground, weeping for the poor. I am rich in Christ, but the ones outside the gate are poor, and dying. They are the oppressed ones, the devastated ones, those without eternal hope.

His *splagchnon* spills out on the ground through tears of intercession. **Our** intercession **can** overflow with this deep inward affection, with His tender mercies, thundering up and out from the inward parts. When **our** bowels are filled with **His** *splagchnon*, the oppressed are set free.

Truly, as Jesus the Word proclaims, “*Blessed are the poor, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*” (Matthew 6:3). He died for the poor. Their destiny to possess the kingdom is sealed by His blood. With His blood Jesus wrote the decree that guarantees the King’s eternal riches for the poor. This truth’s finality arms the praying saint with powerful ammunition that can birth many into the kingdom. Pulling the lost ones out of the world and birthing them into the kingdom is the manifestation of His

mission. It is the victory over death, the victory upon the evil one of this world.

When He introduced Himself to the Jews, He declared this scripture fulfilled on that day: *"...the poor have the gospel preached to them"* (Luke 4:18b). Reassuring the imprisoned John the Baptist, Jesus sent the same message: *"...the poor have the gospel preached to them"* (Matthew 11:d). I imagine that John the Baptist was comforted with these words because the *splagchnon* of God was also within him. When John heard that the poor were being made rich, he could enter into his rest.

Jesus always intended to fulfill the *splagchnon* cry of His heart--the *splagchnon* cry of His Father's heart--with the good news of freedom.

Jesus spoke these words in anticipation of His immediate intercession in the garden, where His *splagchnon* was again poured out, in blood-sweat form: *"I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me...Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory..."* (John 17:6, 24). The plan was to take the poor ones out of the world and into the riches of Christ, into His glory, into His kingdom: *"...Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which He hath promised to them that love Him"* (James 2:5)?

In the garden Jesus' intercessory cries rose to Father. Father responded in unity with the Son and *"arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth"* (Psalm 76:9). Jesus was strengthened with joy that was set before Him,

the joy of knowing that righteous judgments were about to be released upon the earth that would set impoverished captives free. He knew that He was fulfilling His purpose: *“For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see...”* (John 9:39).

Jesus knew that when it was time for Him to be lifted up on the cross, the poor in spirit would be drawn to Him, and would be released from their prison-shacks of death. *“Now is the judgment of this world: now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself”* (John 12:31, 32).

Jesus’ resurrection on the third day judged the ruler of this world and declared him cast out. The verdict of verdicts was handed down to Satan, dethroning him forever, irreversible, unable to enter the court of appeals.

Speaking to the Present Day Kings

The poor—who are they? Stretch your thinking and consider the poor to be those who do not know Jesus as Eternal Life. Who is truly poor except those who exist on earth without hope in God. The destitute, lonely, sick, bereaved, and needy—without Jesus’ intervention in their bodies, souls, and spirits—are poor. True poverty has little to do with financial status.

Look at the poor of the earth. They are destitute because they have been robbed, held captive in a prison house, feasted upon as prey. Listen to the ones with no intimate knowledge of our Father: *“Behold, I cry out of wrong, but I am not heard: I cry aloud, but there is no judgment”* (Job 19:7). *“We all growl like bears, and moan sadly like doves.*

We look for justice, but there is none..." (Isaiah 59:11). They cry over the wrong done to them, yet, "none saith 'Restore'" (Isaiah 42:22d). They mourn for justice. They hunger and thirst for justice, for life to be given to them: "The captive exile hastens, that he may be loosed, that he should not die in the pit, and that his bread should not fail" (Isaiah 51:14). They will die without the Judge's wise verdicts that make wrong things right. Only Judge Jehovah can issue verdicts of life.

What kind of judge is our God? For most of us, our immediate image of a judge presents an angry, loud, power-hungry, oppressive ogre. The scene might fill you with emotions of hopelessness.

For many of us, when we think about God as the Judge, our impression is that He sits on His Throne with these frightening characteristics. This image opposes what He has said about Himself: *"And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, 'The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving⁷ iniquity⁸ and transgression⁹ and sin¹⁰, because He is holy and true to His Name..." (Exodus 34:6,7). In other words, God on the Throne lifts from us, burns away and casts off (forgiving¹¹) our perversion and evil (iniquity¹²); He carries away and pardons (forgiving¹³) our rebellion (transgressions¹⁴); furthermore, He takes away (forgiving¹⁵) our offence and its penalty (sin¹⁶)!*

Our Holy and True God is the God with *splagchnon*, dirtying Himself with the dust of the earth as He agonized in intercession, both sweating blood and spilling His blood. His *splagchnon* is a holy compassion.

His victorious *splagchnon* has made us kings. As kings, once poor, we are at home before our Father's Throne. With *splagchnon* words, *splagchnon* worship, *splagchnon* cries, *splagchnon* tears, we can now stand in the gap for the poor in spirit. As kings before the King of Kings, we can stand at the Throne, receive His righteous judgments and carry them to the earth. Kings reign; kings rule. It is our responsibility and inheritance to rule with justice for the poor of the earth.

When righteous judgment is released, eternal life reaches the poor. As carriers of God's mercy and truth, our mouths can speak just decrees that set the captives free. In Proverbs 31:8,9 we are instructed to *"Open your mouth for the speechless, in the cause of all who are appointed to die. Open your mouth, **judge righteously**, and plead the cause of the poor and needy."* We are to proclaim that this world's satanic ruler has no power to hold captives, freeing the poor. When we speak in this way, we are God's righteous mouthpiece of judgment on earth.

The poor, the hungry and thirsty, the fatherless and homeless, the lost captives are waiting for the righteous judges to take their place. Father God Himself is waiting. *"Who among you will give ear to this? Who will hearken and hear" (Isaiah 42:23)?*

Father, awaken us from our slumbering ease, and give us a wide-eyed perception of the captive's anguish. Give us Your words of justice for the speechless. We need Your compassion, deep in our innermost being, where we moan for life-stealing indecencies to be abolished. We look to You to perform these supernatural changes in our minds and hearts.

Pause for Reflection

1. Looking at Jesus' example, what is one of the most powerful motivations for intercession? How do you obtain this motivation?
2. This sentence summarizes the theme of this book: "When **our** bowels are filled with **His** *splagchnon*, the oppressed are set free." What is *splagchnon*? Look up *splagchnon* in your Bible and find other passages that include *splagchnon*. In those passages, how did *splagchnon* influence a situation?
3. Jesus was overjoyed with His earthly assignment. What did He mean when He said, "*For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see...*" (John 9:39)?
4. Who are the destitute, the poor ones?
5. What kind of judge is our God? Use scripture for your answer, and explain your understanding based on these scriptures.
6. In Proverbs 31:8,9 we are instructed to "*Open your mouth for the speechless, in the cause of all who are appointed to die. Open your mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.*" How can our speech be used to bring justice, to help the poor and needy?

VIOLENT JUSTICE

A Violent Mission

Jesus boldly declared His royal purpose in coming to the earth: *“...For judgment I am come into this world... (John 9:39). Holy Spirit prophesied of Jesus’ global ministry: “Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles” (Isaiah 42:1). Jesus’ earthly mission was to bring justice to the poor of the earth—to release the captives and bring them into eternal life.*

We understand that out of His passion for justice God initiated a violent plan for salvation, offering His Son as the blood sacrifice that permanently overcame death and suffering:

“...Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him that there was no justice. He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor; therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him, and His own righteousness, it sustained Him. For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head. He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak. According to their deeds, accordingly He will repay, fury to His adversaries, recompense to His enemies...” (Isaiah 59:15b-18a).

Jesus is forever Redeemer and Advocate, the only One worthy to cancel sin debt and to issue life verdicts. Yet, billions of souls without Eternal Life are bent over in poverty, existing in destitute conditions, imprisoned in death. The nations of the earth (who are people!) mourn for true justice. They long for justice as they die in their sin, yet they do not find it. They cannot defend or save themselves. They wait for the manifestation of their freedom.

Jesus fulfilled His commission as Savior, and dethroned the keeper of the prison. So why are there still so many held captive, lying cold and starving in Satan's pit of deception and death? This is a heart-breaking reality.

I remember when the Lord broke my heart for the thousands of men and women in Florida who are cruelly incarcerated in homosexuality. Truly this is a culture of people who are duped by the enemy. As part of a prayer initiative concerning this stronghold in Florida, I traveled with a group of intercessors in the U.S. Strategic Prayer Network to an onsite prayer location in Florida's panhandle. We boarded a private yacht that brought us into the bay area, where the team prayed over the waters surrounding Florida. Each of us prayed as led by Holy Spirit.

Suddenly Holy Spirit released deep travail upon me for homosexual men and women. He allowed me to experience the pain of their entrapment. We were led to express a prophetic action of freedom on their behalf. I jumped into the water, representing thousands who are lost and drowning in their sin, helpless. Our team on the boat represented the church that has responsibility, as

Christ's ambassadors, to extend the life raft to them. As a prophetic act of mercy and justice, the team pulled me out by extending their hands, embracing the lost ones who are dying for hope and life. The Lord forever changed my heart, and now I am firmly convinced that a great harvest from the homosexual culture is coming into Father's house very soon.

That might sound like a crazy story, but how far are we willing to go to see God's justice manifested? Holy Spirit might lead you to travel a long distance to pray for people you do not personally know, and may never meet here on earth. Travel will cost you time, money and energy. He may require that you fast for effective intercession in preparation for the trip. I pray for the grace of obedience to overtake you and lead you with joy into the harvest fields with *splagchnon* intercession.

Cry Restore

The Spirit cries because those appointed to declare the restoration of justice have been silent:

*But this is a people robbed and spoiled; they are all of them snared in holes, and they are hid in prison houses: they are for a prey, and none delivereth; for a spoil, and none saith, **Restore.** Isaiah 42:22*

In this passage, the Hebrew meaning for *restore* is to turn back; to refresh; to retrieve, or fetch home again; to return; to reverse.¹⁷ *Restore* also means to re-establish; to bring back to health, soundness, vigor; to put back to a former place or rank; to give back anything taken away or

lost.¹⁸ Our nation bleeds for restoration of God's goodness in the land.

The lost and poor that have not yet experienced the joy of restoration are waiting for their justice to be rendered. These are people who are broken, destitute, carrying a death sentence, voiceless. According to Isaiah 42:22 they are

- Robbed - plundered; taken for prey¹⁹
- Spoiled - destroyed²⁰
- Snared - battered out; to spread a net²¹
- In Holes - the crevice of a serpent; the cell of a prison²²
- None delivereth - to snatch away; deliver; escape²³
- For a spoil - booty; rifle (to ransack with the intent to steal) ^{24, 25}

Multitudes are plundered, entangled in a twisted net, and shackled in dark bondages where serpents creep. There is a divine calling today for the Church to rise up and become the ones who bring deliverance, who enable an escape, who snatch the precious prey from the enemy. As spiritual kings on earth, we can yield ourselves to the Spirit of God and be used to bring back the captives, the lost and prodigals, into a fully restored state. Every part of the Church has a kingly function and responsibility to participate in God's restoration in the earth. Together we can experience the manifestation of God's glorious restoring power.

God's divine justice against the ravaging prison houses is manifested when restoration is accomplished. The Church is to stand in her identity as sons, kings and priests, extending the promise of restoration to others. Through Jesus' kings and priests on earth, the needy, the lost, the poor, can be restored into full sonship with Father.

Our local prayer team in Orlando, Florida, regularly visits homosexual bars for the purpose of releasing the restoration cry of JUSTICE! We pray in parking lots, weeping for men and women to know Jesus, calling in the harvest. We expectantly watch for the outbreak of revival in this culture; it will happen.

We are to use our freedom and kingly authority to set others free. Let us proclaim that this world's wicked ruler has no power to hold captives, freeing the poor. As Jesus' earthly ministers, we can birth future kings—the poor transformed into instruments of righteousness and justice—into the kingdom. May our mouths be filled with the righteous words from heaven, declaring freedom and restoration for men, women and children.

Pause for Reflection

1. Jesus' earthly mission was to bring justice to the poor of the earth—to release the captives and bring them into eternal life. How did He accomplish this?
2. Why are there still so many held captive, lying cold and starving in Satan's pit of deception and death?
3. Give the definitions for *restore*, and use the definitions as part of a *splagchnon* prayer for the lost.

DIVINE THRONE OF JUSTICE

Justice and judgment are the habitation of Thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before Thy face. Psalm 89:14

After His work was finished on the earth, Jesus Christ entrusted the fulfillment of the Kingdom on earth to the saints, the sons and daughters of Father God. Jesus proclaimed that we are the ones who will make the difference in the world, because He would be in us:

“All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost...” (Matt 28:18-20).

“... He who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father” (John 14:12).

The kingdom is brought to earth through us because Jesus the Great intercessor is in us. No matter what our daily jobs are, we are in a position to pray on behalf of others. When we pray, we join people and situations with our heavenly Father’s purposes. We become a bridge that unites God’s will with people on the earth.

Jesus intends for His divine justice to be released in the earth through His Church. For the Church to be effective,

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... as God's ambassadors... we must know our God.

Holy Characteristics

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.”

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

- righteousness, rectitude, virtue, prosperity²⁶
- acting in accord with divine or moral law; free from guilt or sin (righteousness²⁷)
- moral integrity, the quality or state of being correct in judgment or procedure (rectitude²⁸)
- a particular moral excellence (virtue²⁹)
- the condition of being successful or thriving (prosperity³⁰)

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.

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 penalty³¹
- justice, including a particular right, or privilege³²
- to judge, pronounce sentence for or against; to vindicate or punish; to govern; to litigate³³
- to make authoritative pronouncements³⁴
- to arbitrate, or settle disputes³⁵

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. Those things that are unholy keep us from Him, from joining with Him and communing with Him.

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

Forever Seated

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).

Sit means to dwell, to sit down as judge, to remain, to marry.³⁶ As God sits in His seat of authority He dwells with everlasting justice, as if 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).*
- *“Justice and judgment are the habitation of Thy throne” (Psalm 89:14a).*

Habitation is defined as fixture, a basis, foundation, especially as an abode. It can also mean establish, render sure, prosperous.³⁷ With this definition we can say that God's throne abides in justice and judgment; it is established, rendered sure, and prosperous in justice and judgment. The Holy God who has 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).* 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).*

Lover of Justice

The Lord loves justice (Psalm 37:28a). He delights in judgment as it goes forth and accomplishes His kingdom purposes: *“But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth Me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth: for in these things I delight,’ saith the Lord” (Jeremiah 9:24).*

God is violently passionate about His judgment and justice having its way. Revelation 19 tells us that Jesus judges and makes war by justice: *“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon Him called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war” (Revelation 19:11).* Justice becomes the warring standard that removes the enemy’s works: *“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).*

The 2000 presidential election rallied God’s troops to prayer. Prior to the 2000 presidential election, the U.S. Strategic Prayer Network in Florida facilitated a statewide prayer initiative for prayer at every county, state, and federal courthouse in Florida. We believed that God intended for justice to come to America through the next president, in a way similar to King Cyrus’ days. During one weekend, intercessors in every county prayed onsite at courthouses, releasing justice scriptures. Together we agreed that

“Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this” (Isaiah 9:7).

Prayer teams relied on the Lord’s passion for justice to change America’s history. Standing on courthouse steps we spoke the truth, in prayer, that Faithful and True will judge for righteousness in our land. We believed God’s word as true when Isaiah prophesied God’s government (throne) of justice would last forever. When we agreed with God’s desires, the power of agreement brought God’s purposes to earth. Because there was unity between the prayer teams and God’s passionate intentions for justice, this timely prayer focus cast a strong vote for renewed justice in our nation.

As sons of God, we are to become like Him. This means that we have grace to become prosperous in justice, to establish our minds and hearts in the ways of righteous justice. We are called to glorify God by passionately yearning for justice, loving it as He does. May we delight in what brings Him pleasure: mercy and justice.

Father, we ask You to bring us into purity before You. Judge our motives so that the Light within us will burn brightly. Consecrate us, as Your restoration justices, so that we can righteously war with You. Grow us in Your Holy Word so that we will be armed with the razor-sharp sword of justice.

Pause for Reflection

1. Find a few scriptures that show us God's delight in justice.
2. What do these scriptures mean to you--
"Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne" (Psalm 97:2b) and *"Justice and judgment are the habitation of Thy throne" (Psalm 89:14a)*?
3. We are called to glorify God by passionately yearning for justice, loving it as He does. Ask Holy Spirit to reveal to you your love, or lack of it, for God's justice. What are your beliefs about justice? What are your attitudes towards God's merciful justice?
4. Do you agree with this statement: We need both God's justice and holy judgment within us as keys for effective intercession? What does it mean to have God's justice and holy judgment within you?

JUSTICE WRAPPED IN MERCY

Mercy triumphs over judgment. James 2:13

I love this chapter. It is filled with declaration after declaration of God's glory as the Just and Merciful One.

Mercy is the highest order of justice, according to James 2:13. Justice and mercy work together. His justice does not compromise mercy, and His mercy does not compromise His justice.

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 the poor, to the sinners. 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 doth execute judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment” (Deut. 10:18).*
- *“...To judge the fatherless and the oppressed, that the man of the earth may no more oppress” (Psalm 10:18).*
- *“He shall judge the poor of the people, He shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor” (Psalm 72:4).*

- *“The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established forever” (Proverbs 29:14).*
- *“When God arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth” (Psalm 76:9).*
- *“Thus saith the Lord: execute ye judgment and righteousness, and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor; and do no wrong, do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the widow, neither shed innocent blood in this place” (Jer. 22:3).*

From God’s Divine Throne of justice *“mercy and truth shall go before Thy face” (Psalm 89:14b)*. In other words, mercy and truth are projected before Him, meet before Him, hasten before Him (go³⁸). 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 beauty³⁹-- 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 (mercy⁴⁰). 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.⁴¹ 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 so that the world would 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” (Psalm 97:8)*. Together, we will sing of Your mercy and justice (*Psalm 101:1a*). We find comfort in Your arms of justice (*Isaiah 51:5*).

Powerful Mercy

Several years ago Orlando’s police chief asked the churches in the area to do something about the highest crime-ridden area in Orlando. The police chief invited pastors to pray about the situation. Taking this as a directive from the Lord to invade the area with prayer, Judy Braland, an apostle of intercession in the Orlando area, spearheaded an 18-month long prayer movement that focused on God’s mercy. During the first 40 days of the prayer thrust, intercessors daily visited the center of the blighted area and worshipped into the night. The police chief reported a 25% reduction in crime! ⁴²

During the next phase of intervention intercessors met weekly on a street-corner in the area, and simply prayed mercy scriptures over the area. Our heart cry was for God’s mercy to heal the land, to heal the people who lived there, and to transform their community. Crime was further reduced another 10%, the drug lords moved out of

the area, and the slum apartments were condemned.⁴³ Now, this area of the city is favorably eyed by land and business developers.

We believe that the Lord allowed us to see quick drastic results from our prayers because He wanted to clearly give the message that mercy is His heart. He displayed His strong arm of justice on behalf of the poor, and removed oppression from them. He is a promise-keeping God. For a sampling of mercy scriptures that you can use for prayer, see the Appendix article entitled *Mercy*.

Our Lord, the Supreme Judge, promises to display justice in the earth until it is established. The earth longs for His Divine judgments:

“He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till He has set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for His law” (Psalm 67:4).

“Then shall the trees of the wood sing out at the presence of the Lord, because He cometh to judge the earth” (1 Chronicles 16:33).

As earlier testified, God’s promises for justice belong to cities as well. He promises to bring righteousness to our cities through the restoration of judges:

“And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counselors, as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city” (Isaiah 1:26).

The nations will be glad and sing for joy at the manifestation of His justice:

“O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for Thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon the earth” (Psalm 67:4).

Our cry is: O God, arise and restore⁴⁴ your justice as You have always intended. Send help from Your sanctuary and turn back, refresh, retrieve, and fetch home again Your justice in the earth. We pray that today would be the day that You would declare to the Church in our city, on behalf of the lost:

"In an acceptable time I have heard You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You; I will preserve You and give You as a covenant to the people, To restore the earth, To cause them to inherit the desolate heritages; That You may say to the prisoners, 'Go forth,' To those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves.' They shall feed along the roads, and their pastures shall be on all desolate heights. They shall neither hunger nor thirst, neither heat nor sun shall strike them; For He who has mercy on them will lead them, even by the springs of water He will guide them.... Surely these shall come from afar... Sing, O heavens! Be joyful, O earth! And break out in singing, O mountains! For the LORD has comforted His people, and will have mercy on His afflicted” (Isaiah 49:8-13).

Pause for Reflection

1. How would you explain the concept of “justice wrapped in mercy?”
2. How do the following scriptures suggest God’s justice and judgment are intertwined with mercy: Deut. 10:18, Ps. 10:18, Ps. 72:4, Prov. 29:14, Ps. 76:9, Jer. 22:3?
3. Have you considered mercy to be a commanding intercessory force? Have you ever experienced this in prayer?
4. Choose a harvest field to visit, either in your prayer closet or for onsite prayer, and release Isaiah 49:8-13 as a prayer. Visit this harvest field several times during your study of this book. Watch for huge results!

EARLY JUDGES UPON THE EARTH

Nevertheless the Lord raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand that spoiled them. Judges 2:16

The book of Judges relays the historical events of God’s covenant mercy for His people—His pre-Calvary provision for deliverance through judging authorities. God, in His merciful compassion, appointed judges that would lead His people out of bondage, into repentance, with full deliverance from their oppressors. To save was the function of the judge.

“Nevertheless the Lord raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them. And when the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the Lord was moved to pity for their groaning because of those who oppressed them and harassed them” (Judges 2:16,18).

As we study the Word together regarding judges and judgment, we will discover that God’s appointed judges are life-motivated towards His people, and death-motivated towards the oppressor. Judges 2:16 conveys that the Lord appointed judges for the purpose of setting free, making safe, rescuing, and avenging (deliver⁴⁵) His people from being *spoiled*. *Spoiled* means plundered, robbed, destroyed.⁴⁶ Under the old covenant God provided a way out of destruction and into restoration through judges.

Prior to the time of Judges, Moses and his leadership were appointed as judges for the people. These judges were given authority to issue verdicts in individual lives, as well as for cities. Judges reviewed cases for the people as well as made judgments in the gates for the city:

“And they judged⁴⁷ the people at all times; the hard causes they brought to Moses, but they judged⁴⁸ every small case themselves” (Ex. 18:26).

“You shall appoint judges⁴⁹ and officers in all your gates, which the Lord your God gives you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge⁵⁰ the people with just judgment⁵¹” (Deuteronomy 16:18).

The word *judge*⁵² means to pronounce sentence for or against; to vindicate or punish; to govern; to litigate; to defend. Further researching *judge* we find this description:

“One who judges, governs, passes down judgment, pronounces sentence, and decides matters. The root is *shaphat*, to *judge, decide, and pronounce sentence*. In English, both *to judge* and *judgment* have negative associations, but not so in Hebrew. Judgment is the balance, ethics, and wisdom, which, if present in a ruler’s mind, enables him to govern equitably and to keep the land free from injustice. Judgment, when used of God, is that divine faculty whereby He runs the universe righteously, handing down decisions that will maintain or bring about a right state of affairs. Abraham described God as the Judge of the whole

Earth (Gen 18:25). In the Book of Judges, God raised up human judges (*shophtim*) who governed Israel, executed justice, and handed down decisions.”⁵³

Recall from Chapter 3 that *judgment*⁵⁴ is defined in this manner: a verdict pronounced as a sentence or formal decree; justice; and is rooted in the definition for *judge*.⁵⁵ Old testament judges were not only given authority to decide day-to-day practical situations, but were given spiritual authority to declare vindication against the spoiler.

If God purposed to establish this kind of authority upon the earth through man prior to Jesus’ victorious walk upon the earth, how much more now does He purpose to manifest righteous judging authority against the enemy today! Jesus’ mission in 1 John 3:8b is eternally true: *“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”* Aren’t we, as Father’s sons and daughters, also called to decree justice against the spoiler?

I have another encouraging justice story for you: In 1999 a guidance counselor from a local high school told us about a crisis of student suicides in her high school. She reported that during the first ten years of the high school’s existence, they had experienced one student suicide per year. Also, during the previous school year, 100 students visited the school’s counseling department with suicidal ideations. She wanted to put a stop to this.

The Lord gave us favor with this official to gather about 80 people, including the high school’s principal, to pray on campus one summer Saturday. Christians from all walks of

life banded together to agree for justice to be rendered against the spirit of death. We spent most of the day praying throughout the campus, and worshipping the Lord.

Immediately the Lord answered our prayers. We believe answers came quickly for several reasons:

- (1) God loves mercy and justice, and was ready to remove this curse of death if we would agree with Him.
- (2) Agreement between God, civil government (the principal, who was the gatekeeper of the school), and the Church (the spiritual gatekeepers) brought answered prayer.
- (3) God wanted to testify to His Church, and this school, the power of prayer.
- (4) We believed it was a prayer assignment from the Lord.

There has not been one student suicide since that hot summer prayer day. The school's counseling department experienced 50% less suicidal talk among teenagers, with another 50% decrease the following year.⁵⁶

The school now has an active thriving on-campus youth group that meets twice weekly. Also, the school was chosen to have the first onsite chaplaincy program in the state. Justice was rendered...abundantly!

Supreme Judge and Lawgiver

*“For the Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Lawgiver,
the Lord is our King; He will save us” (Isaiah 33:22).*

This wonderfully merciful God has fashioned man in His own image. He has shaped man, and will continue to shape him, to reflect Himself as Judge over all. He desires to raise up kingly judges in these days that will reflect His glory as Judge. He desires men and women who will

“Judge the poor of the people; He shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor” (Psalm 72:4).

“Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy” (Psalm 82:3).

We know that Jesus issued the final decree of justice on the Cross, however the manifestation of that decree is not fully apprehended on the earth. The needy lie in our streets without a voice for justice:

“...A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came...a priest...and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite...passed by on the other side...” (Luke 10:30-35).

Our Father is creating righteous men, women and children who will not look the other way when suffering occurs. He is fashioning our hearts to hate the evil of injustice. He is inspiring us to actively free people from bondage by praying for their deliverance, clothing the homeless,

teaching about God's love and character. He is removing selfishness from us and implanting *splagchnon*.

May we understand that Aaron's responsibilities, which foreshadow our priestly ministry today, prophesy about our calling as priests who bear justice:

“And Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart, when he goeth in unto the holy place, for a memorial before the Lord continually” (Exodus 28:29).

In Revelation 5:9,10 the heavenly song of the redeemed trumpets Jesus our Redeemer as *“slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and **have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.**”* After fully vesting His power in us, Jesus seated Himself beside Father. He now waits on us to express justice as reigning spiritual kings on earth.

Law of Love

Civil governing authorities are appointed by God to deal with men and systems that bring suffering, harm, and moral corruption—to execute wrath on him who practices evil (Romans 13:4). Civil authorities operate through the laws and courts of an earthly government system. Likewise, God's kingly priests are authorized to judge and execute wrath on injustice by means of a heavenly court and laws.

In court systems, when the judge releases a verdict he speaks it, the courts record it, and it is established. This

verdict acts as a command. When the judge issues the decree of justice, the decree activates an entire system of works that bow under this verdict. An organization is catapulted into motion to carry out and bring into being the intentions of the verdict.

A judge decrees freedom, determines forms of payment, orders punishment by death or imprisonment. The judge has power to demand restitution. As spiritual judges who sit before a heavenly court, we are to judge against oppression, depression, poverty, death.

Matthew 18:18 describes the power of our spiritual authority:

“Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

When we respond to injustice with just verdicts against bondage and violence, we are issuing commands to the wicked forces, who must submit under God’s justice. Wicked rulers must submit to God’s authority that is released through us.

The judge is seated in his courtroom to uphold the law. Jesus summed up the law in two commandments:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind... You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37-39).

In agreement with God’s love commandment we can speak a prayerful decree that brings release from

suffering, harm and corruption. It is time to put on our robes of justice and uphold the law of love, with passionate mercy, motivated by the *splagchnon* God. Enter your prayer closet, and there you will find your robe waiting for you.

Pause for Reflection

1. According to Judges 2:16,18, what motivated God to establish judges over the people?
2. How would you describe the characteristics and responsibilities of the Hebrew judge?
3. Who are the priests who bear justice?
4. How is the release of God's justice an upholding of the two greatest commandments?

FREEDOM KEY

Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand, to execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples; To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; To execute on them the written judgment—This honor have all His saints. Psalm 149:6-9

Divine justice is a kingdom key for the release of the captives. I suspect this key resembles a glittering sword, one that molds itself to fit any dying heart, bringing life and freedom. It is an eternal key that opens the prison house and sets the captives free, while closing the door to wickedness that robs the world of true life. This key, when used with wisdom and understanding, will turn the lock and birth many into the Kingdom.

In Revelation 3, Jesus reveals Himself as the holder of the kingdom key of David that opens and shuts doors. This key binds and looses, opens and closes with great authority: “...*He who is holy, He who is true. He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens. I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it...*” (Revelation 3:7,8). The key of David unlocks prison houses and sets the captives free.

Jesus Christ has given the key of David, the rights of kingdom authority, to the church (Matthew 16:18-19). We

are to manifest the kingdom of God by exercising these rights. Our mandate is to make disciples. However, most of the Church has not understood nor implemented the authority key of David that unlocks the Great Commission within our personal sphere of authority.

Today's revelation word for the Body is that God's justice wrapped in mercy is a freedom key for the captives. The King is calling to his kingly ambassadors of justice to awaken and turn the freedom key unto victory and reap the harvest.

Dominion

Let us look more closely at the authority position that our Father has given to us. In Ephesians Paul wrote that we have been *"raised...up together, and...sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus"* (Ephesians 2:6). Job 36:7 states that the righteous are on the throne with kings, seated forever and exalted. In Psalm 111:6 we read, *"He has declared to His people the power of His works, in giving them the heritage of the nations."* Just these few verses alone make it clear that those who are in Christ Jesus are given a kingly position.

Continuing with this precept, Hebrews 2:7,8 pronounces that all things are in subjection to man:

"What is man...You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor; And set him over the works of Your hands. You have put all things in subjection under his feet" (Hebrews 2:7,8).

Subjection means to obey, be subject.⁵⁷ It is a Greek military term meaning to arrange troop divisions in a military fashion under the command of a leader. In non-military use, it is a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility, and carrying a burden.⁵⁸ Applying these definitions, we understand that all things, meaning the works of God's hands in the earth, are to obey man. Man has the authority to exert military strength to enforce such obedience and subjection. We, as the Church, have full rights to exercise spiritual authority and effectively apply the weapon of prayer to bring God's dominion and justice to a situation.

From the beginning of man's creation in the Garden of Eden, man was blessed by God to rule, conquer, and have dominion over the earth and the things of the earth:

“And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth” (Genesis 1:28).

Subdue means to tread down; to disregard; to conquer; to subjugate; bring into subjection.⁵⁹

Not only is man to walk in subduing authority and power, God calls him to exercise dominion. This dominion is an authority and power given to us by God, the One who holds dominion over all things, in heaven, on the earth, and under the earth:

“Then He made him that remaineth have dominion over the nobles among the people: the Lord made me have dominion over the mighty” (Judges 5:13).

“And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him” (Daniel 7:27).

When we study the *Strong’s Concordance* we find that *dominion* means to rule, have dominion, dominate, tread down, exercise power over, be master, lord it over.⁶⁰

If these three bold statements aren’t enough—

- Those who are in Christ Jesus are given a kingly position;
- All things are in subjection to man;
- God calls His Church to exercise dominion

—let’s look at our mandate to possess the land!

In Joshua 1:11 and Numbers 33:53, the Lord told Joshua to possess the land:

“...For within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the Lord your God giveth you to possess it” (Joshua 1:11b).

“And ye shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land, and dwell therein: for I have given you the land to possess it” (Numbers 33:53).

To possess something is an act of domination exercised with subduing strength and overriding authority. *Possess* means to seize, dispossess, inherit, occupy.⁶¹ *Possess* also means to have and hold as property, or to own; to enter into and control firmly; to dominate.⁶²

The Joshuas of our day live to seize God's full inheritance here on earth: people's hearts. They walk wherever necessary to bring the kingdom of God to the poor and oppressed. They go with a possession mindset, ready to subdue injustice, speaking and acting with royal authority.

Let's review these tremendous truths. Man is redeemed by God to sit together with Jesus in heavenly places! God has put all things in subjection under our feet! We are blessed by God and told to subdue the earth! We are anointed to have dominion over the earth, over the mighty of the earth! The dominion of God's kingdom is given to us who live on the earth now! We have the authority and power to possess territories—territories of land and hearts!

As covenanted sons and daughters of the Most High God, we are given the authority to decree, and to judge oppression, bringing freedom to the captives. Let us no longer hesitate to exercise our kingly authority that can free the oppressed who sit in prison houses. I imagine that much rejoicing occurs in heaven when we use our authority effectively.

Living Justice

As we have established, believers are given full rights to exercise kingly authority on earth, to administer justice

that will release multitudes from captivity into Life. Even under the old covenant we are told by the Lord to continuously “administer justice” and to rescue the oppressed (Jeremiah 21:12):

“O house of David, this is what the Lord says: ‘Administer justice every morning; rescue from the hand of his oppressor the one who has been robbed, or my wrath will break out and burn like fire because of the evil you have done—burn with no one to quench it’” (Jeremiah 21:12).

“This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other’” (Zechariah 7:9-10).

“I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy” (Psalm 140:2).

In Matthew 23 Jesus reproves the Pharisees for their lack of true justice:

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former” (Matthew 23:23).

Recently our city was visited by four young adults from The Cause, a fiery young-adult house of prayer ministry based in Washington DC. At their Justice House of Prayer

location, two blocks from the U.S. Supreme Court, many young adults fast and pray day and night for our nation's government to overturn the Roe v. Wade decision. Daily they decree LIFE on the Supreme Court steps, calling for righteous justice to fill our court systems once again. They visit abortion clinics with the same life mandate.

These young adults have accepted their God-given authority and are examples of living justice. They have met the splagchnon God, laid down their agendas so they may live as true disciples, and exhibit dominion (kingly authority) wherever they go. The Lord has extended mercy to our nation by supplying these strong effective ministers of reconciliation, each one a walking justice house of prayer, as restorers of life to America.

We are all called to the ministry of reconciliation:

"All things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God" (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

May we, as the Body of Christ, mature in the understanding and administration of this ministry of reconciliation. The government is upon His shoulders, and we are His ambassadors to carry out the manifestation of His government of freedom upon earth. We are to exercise Christ's redeeming power in us by participating in

the ministry of reconciliation. As kings, we are to be submitted to the King of Kings, exercising dominion and kingdom rule, making decrees of justice throughout the land.

God's intent is to glory Himself in this, and to yield a harvest unto Himself through His sons and daughters on earth. Amos prophesied of a great awakening and outpouring of God's Spirit that will call many into the Kingdom. This will happen when God's government, His established Church, is restored in the earth as the sons and daughters of the Kingdom walk in the fullness of their kingly authority:

"In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David [God's earthly king and priests with praying authority] that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the Lord that doeth this" (Amos 9:11-12).

With hearts of mercy and bowels of compassion, let us firmly grasp the governmental keys that establish the Lord's kingdom in others' hearts. Let us ask Father to fill us with His truth, justice, and righteousness, so that we may be used *"to judge the fatherless and the oppressed..." (Psalm 10:18a).*

Pause for Reflection

1. What is the freedom key for the captives? Explain your answer.
2. What scriptures verify this statement: Those who are in Christ Jesus are given a kingly position? How have you begun to live according to a kingly mindset?
3. What does it mean that that all things are in subjection to man?
4. God calls us to exercise dominion during our time spent on earth. Give the definition for dominion, explain this dominion concept, and give scripture references.
5. How do you believe you could use your spiritual authority more effectively in this season of your life? If you aren't sure, then commit this to prayer.

FRIENDS WITH THE KING

Abraham

Father God established a covenant with us, to have dominion over the earth. He desires to walk with us in communion and fellowship, as one. In the place of intimate relationship with the Almighty God, the Lord's covenantal promises come forth.

Abraham was God's friend and called to manifest righteous justice in the earth:

“And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which He hath spoken of him” (Genesis 18:17-19).

Abraham touched God's heart in prayer because he had a close relationship with God. Because Abraham was obedient to the Lord, and intimate with Him, God used Abraham to save Lot and his family. Abraham's intercessory petitions for Sodom and Gomorrah were heard and received by the Lord:

“And the Lord said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very

grievous; I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto Me; and if not, I will know. And he [Abraham] said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And He said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake. And the Lord went His way, as soon as He had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place" (Genesis 18:20-21,32-33).

We are Abraham's descendants. The Lord said that Abraham's descendants will keep His ways, and exercise justice and judgment. This is a covenant promise. A benefit of this covenant is friendship with God, thus sharing in the knowledge of God's will. From a place of intimacy with our God, with His Son Jesus, we are mantled with the promise to "do justice and judgment."

Esther

Queen Esther's biography reveals the secret between intimacy with the Lord and walking in kingly judgment and justice. We can learn from Esther that our impact in the kingdom will grow when intimacy with our Lord becomes our way of life.

In Esther 2:1-7:10, we read that Esther was invited into the king's house as a bridal prospect. Under supervision of the king's royal servants, she received twelve months of beauty treatments prior to meeting the king. Because the king loved Esther more than the other women, she became his wife, and made queen.

When Esther married, she was well prepared outwardly, but once she became queen the inward tests began. Yes,

Esther realized she was queen, but she had not walked in her governmental authority yet. She was not familiar with this new position. She was unsure of the use of this new authority. In other words, Esther had taken her place as bride, but had not yet taken her place beside the king.

Esther's people, the Jews, were issued a royal decree for their destruction. Her uncle, Mordecai, who held a position within the king's gate, pleaded with Esther to use her queenly authority to cancel this wicked plan. At first, Esther refused. Even though she was the queen, she was not free to enter the king's inner court without his invitation. Nevertheless, a meeting with the king was necessary to save her people. Esther knew that her petition was for a high court and would result in either her death or the enemy's death.

Esther wisely called for a fast to help her with this assignment. She had become willing to die on the way, if needed. But, she knew she could not move toward the king without spiritual help in place. After three days of fasting the scriptures tell us what happened:

“Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house... when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favor in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre. Then said the king to her, What do you wish, queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given to you—up to half the kingdom!” Esth 5:1-3

Esther knew how to approach the king. She wore her queenly robe, the one he ordered tailored for her. Beauty radiated from her, more so in her royal gown. Immediately the king invited her to come closer, that he might hear her request. Before she spoke the first word the king declared that he would grant her request, even if it would cost him half his kingdom!

We know a King who responds to us in the same way. We are invited to come up to the Throne and to know the King. He waits upon His Throne, anticipating our arrival. We go to the Throne Room dressed in His righteousness, for which He paid the price. He knows our requests before we ask Him. He is more than willing to give what we ask, because we have His eye, we have His favor, we have His love. This magnificent, fearful One treats us kindly and with honor.

Responding to the king's question, Esther invited the king and Haman, the enemy, to two banquets. These were not ordinary banquets. She served a special banquet of wine, which reminded both of them and Haman of their marital covenant relationship. Esther prophetically lived Psalm 23:5, *"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies."*

The queen wisely chose to strengthen her relationship with her husband-king before making her intercessory request. She decided to approach the king with her weighty petition based upon their personal intimate relationship with each other. Esther, who was the queen with all rights and authority, risked her life and relied upon the relationship between them. She ventured into her full

place as queen when she rested her royal authority upon the power of the affection between herself and the king.

Justice was delivered— Esther’s people were saved and Haman was hanged. As the Bride, we are assured victorious spiritual warfare when we lean on our intimacy with the King more than our position as king and priest. Our King listens to our heart’s cry and grants our petitions. In His jealousy for us and His righteous anger toward evil He extends His authority and grants our petitions. We hold our position of authority because of our close relationship with the King. That is how we rule in His kingdom.

We can see ourselves in Esther’s life. As we mature as the praying Bride, we prepare ourselves to meet the King, just as Esther did. We apply the wisdom of first becoming a bride, then entering into our place beside our King, before moving into the fullness of justice kingdom authority.

Esther embraced the decisive steps toward becoming a royal, powerful queen. Esther was willing to risk everything. She went through an intense time of testing, fasting and laying down her life out of love for an entire people group, not for herself. At the same time, she was not afraid to express her love for the king, to the king. This made all the difference. We too will grow in governmental authority as we, with boldness, are willing to throw off fear and wholly worship our King.

It is time to enter that astoundingly powerful place in prayer that is born from intimacy with Jesus. As the praying Bride, we are commissioned to pray with intimate authority, accomplishing great exploits because we know

our Lord. Together, at this table set with wine, we have opportunity to execute justice with our Bridegroom, our King.

Pause for Reflection

1. Did you know that Abraham's descendants (you and me) are to "*keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment*" (Gen. 18:18-19)? What does this mean for us today?
2. Explain how your personal relationship with the Lord impacts your ability to effectively pray for justice.
3. Read the book of Esther. Write some practical principles that are useful for where you are right now; ask Holy Spirit to empower you to apply these principles.

WISDOM RULES

“The king establishes the land by justice.” Proverbs 29:4a

Wise kings understand godly justice and apprehend it, for *“the throne is established by righteousness”* (Proverbs 16:12). Proverbs 29:14 tells us that for the king who rules with justice wrapped in mercy, his throne will endure. As saints, we are to understand that our kingly mantle is to include Divine Justice.

One of the requirements for possessing true kingly authority to administer righteous justice on earth is found in heavenly wisdom and understanding. In Proverbs 2 this secret is revealed:

“My son, if you receive My words, and treasure My commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding...Then you will understand righteousness and justice, equity and every good path” (Proverbs 2:1-3,9).

In the Old Testament we find shadows of our eternal commission as both king and judge. During his early reign, wise King Solomon depicted the heart of Father. As a function of his kingly position, he judged matters that came before his throne, issued verdicts and decrees, and had authority to change the course of events. When he functioned as judge, verdicts were either reversed or

stayed. Life and death sentences were spoken. Recall the story of the two women claiming parental rights over the same infant. Solomon tested their hearts and found the true mother. In the Lord's wisdom this earthly king issued a decree that led to truth and life. Because Solomon operated in godly wisdom, his decision corrected what was wrong. Truth prevailed and made right any wrongs.

King Solomon was able to rule with true justice because he had a heart that yearned for wisdom and righteous justice. Solomon knew this truth and embraced it: *"By Me [wisdom] kings reign, and rulers decree justice"* (Proverbs 8:15). When the Lord presented an opportunity for Solomon to ask for anything he desired, Solomon asked for an understanding heart to discern justice.

"The speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing. Then God said to him: 'Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you'" (1 Kings 3:10-12).

We learn from this passage that the Lord was very pleased with Solomon's choice. The Lord not only blessed Solomon with the ability to rule with wise justice, He also granted him great riches and favor with man:

"Blessed be the Lord your God, who delighted in you, setting you on the throne of Israel! Because the Lord

has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness.’ Then she gave the king one hundred and twenty talents of gold, spices in great quantity, and precious stones. There never again came such abundance of spices as the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon” (1 Kings 10:9-10).

If the Old Testament covenant’s testimony of justice was a shadow of the glory to come, how much greater is the glory of His divine justice during our day? As kings and priests unto our God, let us pursue the understanding of His divine justice in these latter days.

Take Heed

Judges are to be wise, not given to bias, walking in the fear of the Lord:

“So Jehoshaphat dwelt at Jerusalem ... and set judges in the land throughout all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city, and said to the judges, ‘Take heed to what you are doing, for you do not judge for man but for the Lord, who is with you in the judgment. Now therefore, let the fear of the Lord be upon you; take care and do it, for there is no iniquity with the Lord our God, no partiality, nor taking of bribes” (2 Chronicles 19:4-7).

"Hear the word of the LORD, O king of Judah, you who sit on the throne of David, you and your servants and your people who enter these gates! 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. For if you indeed do this thing, then shall enter the gates of this house, riding on horses and in chariots, accompanied by servants and people, kings who sit on the throne of David” (Jeremiah 22:2-4).

When righteous justice is restored to our cities, the kingdom government of God is established and the saints inherit the land. The saints will walk in their kingly authority in the land when God’s justice rules, according to Proverbs 29:14, *“The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established forever.”* A righteous king (which we are called to be) will walk in the fear of the Lord, with the Spirit of the Lord upon Him, ready to slay the wickedness of the enemy by the just decrees of his mouth:

“And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge⁶³ after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove (decide, judge, rebuke, correct⁶⁴) after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity (to be upright, be straight, be just⁶⁵) for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked” (Isaiah 11:3-4).

This is the day for all righteous kings to stand up and *“open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy” (Proverbs 31:9).*

Shining Ones

In Daniel 12:3, we find another example of wisdom’s benefit:

“Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who turn many to righteousness will shine like stars forever” (Dan 12:3 nlt).

When God’s wisdom is our standard, our personal rule, then God’s light shines through us more brightly. Spiritual rulers of the earth possess the light of God, understanding and wisdom. Daniel, who was both a civil and spiritual governor over a region, is one of our examples:

“I have even heard of thee... that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in thee” (Daniel 5:14).

Because God’s character was found in Daniel, he found favor and his voice was heard. God’s wisdom and understanding were found in Daniel, as well as God’s light.

As present-day spiritual rulers, we need God’s light to shine through us, to give us clarity, to bring clear judgment against injustice. True light possesses freeing power; it releases justice for the oppressed. Consider these scriptures about light:

“I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, and not forsake them” (Isaiah 42:16).

“[Jesus came—The Light] to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house” (Isaiah 42:7).

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined” (Isaiah 9:2).

Releasing God’s light into the darkness scatters the darkness. When darkness is scattered, people become free. The Light of the world brings God’s goodness and mercy to those who sit in darkness. The light of God is a powerful weapon for effective intercession for the poor.

A few years ago several of us prayed at every homosexual bar in the downtown Orlando area. We believed the Lord wanted us to decree a release of His light, and to trust in the power of His light to remove darkness (see the Appendix for *Rx: The Light*). As we prayer-walked each site, we found ourselves weeping over the devastation. We stood before each bar and declared the Light released to the captives, and that this Light brings out the prisoners from their dark cells.

To this day we believe the Light is dynamically granting sight to the spiritually blind in the bars we visited. Although these places remain open for business, we are assured that soon they will close. We know that God’s word was planted by these acts of intercession. Our God is faithful to bring others to water it and He will give the increase.

Let us pray for ourselves now: *Father, fill us with Your light. We ask for Your divine wisdom, that is pure and full mercy. We want to shine with the light of Yourself, the light of Your wisdom. Open the Scriptures so that we can see more of Your hidden treasures, the hidden secrets that*

will bring freedom to the captives. We long for You to receive the full reward of Your suffering--- with a full harvest! Use us to harvest the blind, the lame, the deaf, the walking dead; use us to bring Your justice that gives sight, legs for running, ears, and life.

Pause for Reflection

1. One of the requirements for possessing true kingly authority here on earth is found in heavenly wisdom and understanding. Explain this concept.
2. How is King Solomon a good example of one who had a heart for justice and guided by wisdom?
3. What qualities are needed for today's righteous judges?
4. How is God's light linked with His justice?

TONGUE-TALKING JUSTICE

The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom, and his tongue talks of justice. Psalm 37:30

Over the years my husband and I have participated in various all-night prayer gatherings for the city. For nearly two years our church met every Friday evening from 7pm until 3am, sometimes until 6am. Praying people and minstrels would come and go throughout the night, peppering the atmosphere with spoken prayer and prayer songs for our city. During another season, for about one year, every Friday night promised a worship and prayer gathering somewhere in Florida, to pray on behalf of Florida. Worship teams from various churches volunteered themselves to participate for two-hour segments, rotating segments with other teams throughout the evening.

We learned the value of praying through the night (night watches)—fasting sleep and sitting at Jesus’ feet, waiting for His prayer directives. We experienced the power of agreeing for God’s will together, and enjoyed unique fellowship.

We have grown to value the powerful fruits of God’s justice coming to our city:

“With my soul have I desired Thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek Thee early. For

when Thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness” (Isa. 26:9).

As an intercessor who has been graced by the Lord to seek the shalom of the city where I live, the following scripture passage is especially gripping:

“Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem. See now and know, and seek in her open places if you can find a man, if there is anyone who executes judgment, who seeks the truth, and I will pardon her” (Jer. 5:1).

Whenever I read this passage, my heart begins to run throughout the streets of downtown Orlando—central Florida’s hub where 52 million people visit annually—crying out for Truth to be known by all.⁶⁶ Even now, writing this chapter, Father’s compassion in my heart spills into tears of intercession for the salvation and healing of all who live in this area of Florida. This is not yet seen in our city, but I confidently know that God keeps His Word, and will honor the request of His saints. I can already hear the “Hurrah!” in heaven, a victory shout.

What is more satisfying than yielding your body, soul and spirit to God our Father in prayer, agreeing with Him for His will to be done here, and watching it happen? This is our promise: If we ask Father in Jesus’ name, we will receive what we ask, and be filled with joy (John 16:24). The city’s peace is ours for the asking!

Justice Talks

Prior chapters of this book tie together God’s truth about justice and the passion for its administration. However,

truth and passion without action—faith without works—will not cross the threshold into triumph. We have learned about our kingly mandate and now we need to realize kingdom exploits.

Our speech can put faith to action. We can SPEAK for justice and receive it, if we approach the Justice Throne with unwavering faith:

“Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, saying, ‘There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying: Get justice for me from my adversary. And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself: Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’ Then the Lord said, ‘Hear what the unjust judge said. And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?’” (Luke 18:1-8)?

Notice the widow persisted in asking for justice. Because she asked for it, **spoke it**, she received what was rightfully hers. We can speak about justice for our personal lives, just as the widow did. However, we can have a broader impact upon unjust wrongs by heeding Proverbs 31:8,

“Open your mouth for the speechless, in the cause of all who are appointed to die.”

Injustice speaks loudly in the earth. Its mouth must be shut. Scripture tells us that the sound of injustice can be stopped when the oppressed receive God's compassionate justice:

"Yet setteth He the poor on high from affliction, and maketh His families like a flock. The righteous shall see it, and rejoice: and all iniquity [violent deeds of injustice. Thayer's Lexicon H5766] shall stop her mouth" (Ps. 107:41-42).

Kingdom exploits flourish when our Just Judge avenges oppressive injustice. As saints of the Most High God, we can voice justice before the Judge, and receive it because He longs to release justice. It is our voice before Father that shuts the mouth of injustice on earth.

Yes, we are justice-bearers on earth through the declarations of our mouth! Job 22:28 tells us that we can make decrees as kings, and the decree will be established. Not only that, with pure hearts before our Father and fully submitted to His will, we can release freedom through our speech:

"When men are cast down, then thou shalt say, 'There is a lifting up'; and He shall save the humble person. He shall deliver the island of the innocent; and it is delivered by the pureness of thine hands" (Job 22:29-30).

Effective spoken prayer happens when our hearts are right before the Lord, pure in His eyes. Jesus accessed the highest authority to accomplish Father's will on earth by

fully yielding to Father. His secret was His heart motivation before His Father:

“I can of Mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and My judgment is just; because I seek not Mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent Me” (John 5:30).

Through meekness we learn true justice: *“The meek will He guide in judgment. The meek will He teach His way” (Psalm 25:9).* When we learn His ways, then our mouths can carry the sentence of the Divine Judge from heaven. His lips possess a divine sentence, without transgression (Prov. 16:10). As spiritual kings on earth, we ask the Lord to give us pure lips, with the law of kindness on our tongue: *“Kindness and truth keep a king, and he hath supported by kindness his throne” (Prov. 20:28 YLT).*

Walk the Talk

Remember our discussion in Chapter 6 about possessing the land of people’s hearts and exercising our dominion as kings on the earth. We have conquering authority over all unrighteousness. God will give us every place where our feet touch (Joshua 1:3), as we walk in faith and obedience to Him.

We have taken Joshua 1:3 literally in downtown Orlando, for justice’ sake. In 2003 the Lord began to speak to us about declaring truth, justice and peace at the gates of Orlando, according to Zechariah 8:16:

“These are the things that ye shall do: Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbor; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates.”

He reminded us that it is our honor, as his sons and daughters in this city, to execute judgment upon the enemy’s wickedness:

“Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand; to execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people; to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute upon them the judgment written: this honor have all His saints” (Psalm 149:6-9).

Wickedness flaunts itself with every soul that is housed in Satan’s black prison house of death, separated from Jesus’ light and life. Righteous justice-bearers have the responsibility and privilege to declare God’s judgments against deathly oppression:

“With my lips I have declared all the judgments of Your mouth” (Psalm 119:13).

Taking these words seriously, we began to regularly visit certain chief gates in Orlando, to pray for the harvest represented at those gates. Spiritually speaking, there are many “gates” or “doors” into a city which allow or disallow passage of influences (godly or ungodly) into a city. Spiritual gateways may be institutions, businesses or sometimes people. Examples of gates in your city might be:

- Churches
- Legal—including police, lawyers, judges and anyone responsible to care for the security of others
- Education
- Commerce and business—airport, banking headquarters
- Political
- Doors of influence—people of influence, such as sports figures, radio and television personalities and regular media

We focused on three gateways in downtown Orlando: banking, justice (county courthouse and police department) and homosexual bars.

“Judges and officers shalt thou make thee in all thy gates, which the Lord thy God giveth thee, throughout thy tribes. And they shall judge the people with just judgment” (Deut. 16:18).

As part of the strategy, we prayed onsite only at the larger, more influential gateways within these three categories, thereby binding the lead strongman. At each prayer location we recognized that the justice decrees released at the chief gate would be heeded throughout the rest of that system.

Praying for the harvest is the ultimate justice cry! Time after time we released God’s passion for the separated and dying, decreeing:

“Let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream” (Amos 5:24). In the appendix you will find a sampling of scriptures we used during these onsite justice prayer times, entitled *Praying For the Harvest In a Location and Justice, Truth and Peace at the Gates.*

Other justice strategies that the Lord has given to us include worshipping Him throughout the night, in regular corporate night watches. Scripture teaches us about singing of His justice day and night:

“I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto Thee, O Lord, will I sing” (Psalm 101:1).

“At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto Thee because of Thy righteous judgments” (Psalm 119:62).

“Seven times a day do I praise Thee because of Thy righteous judgments” (Psalm 119:164).

A regular group meets monthly for a 36-hour worship watch in downtown Orlando (called The Furnace, www.orlandofurnace.com), to worship the Lord and pray for the multitudes to come out of darkness, into the Light of His presence.⁶⁷ Musical teams from varying ministries rotate leading worship throughout the day and night. At the same time, acts of justice are ministered by praying for the homeless, serving them meals, and offering personal healing prayer for anyone who is at the prayer watch. This is our night and day prayer for justice, according to Luke 18, where the widow persisted in asking for justice and received it.

There are innumerable ways to decree justice where you live, into your everyday circumstances, for your neighborhood, city, state and nation. Ask the Lord for His compassion, and you will find yourself wanting to express His justice.

Be His Justice Banner

The Lord created you to pour out justice to the poor. He formed you in your mother's womb, with forward vision for when you would decree sight for the blind... running legs for the lame... eternal life riches for the destitute.

He has plans for you to experience the miraculous changing power of His justice. He longs for you to come before His throne, to behold the beauty of the merciful and fearful Judge. Yes, you are called to glory in His majesty. You are called to worship Him through acts of justice, speaking His righteous desires into people.

Let me encourage you to act upon the compassion and desire that Holy Spirit is stirring in you. Find another *splagchnon*-motivated soul and get out there and pray. Pray with tears. Pray with anguish. Pray with joy over the power of God's justice having an impact. Release His Word as the banner of justice for those who cannot, or will not, seek justice for themselves.

It really is not difficult... just a little inconvenient. Obedience in prayer is an extraordinary act of worship, and releases the captives. The outcome of our obedience in prayer, however, is not our responsibility. Justice-bearers walk and pray by faith--a simple trust and confidence in God.

Together, we rejoice in God's glory display as He releases the fruit of justice:

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isaiah 35:10).

Pause for Reflection

1. How will injustice “shut her mouth”?
2. What preparation do you need to justly speak God’s will upon the earth?
3. Ask the Lord for His splanchnon, and for His strategy to release His justice through you by prayer. He has a harvest field, or two, for you.

APPENDIX

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A: Compassion for the Lost

B: Justice, Truth and Peace at the Gates

C: Mercy

D: Praying for the Harvest in a Location

E: The Light

**F: Justice and Judgment Scriptures Compiled
From *Justice Wrapped in Mercy***

Compassion for the Lost

Gen 43:30 Now his heart yearned for his brother; so Joseph made haste and sought somewhere to weep. And he went into his chamber and wept there.

Ps 86:15 But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.

Ps 107:14 He brought them out of darkness and the deepest gloom and broke away their chains.

Is 29:18 In that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll, and out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see.

Is 33:24 And the inhabitant will not say, "I am sick"; The people who dwell in it will be forgiven their iniquity.

Is 42:6-7 I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house.

Is 42: 16 I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, and not forsake them.

Is 42:22 But this is a people robbed and plundered; All of them are snared in holes, and they are hidden in prison houses; They are for prey, and no one delivers; For plunder, and no one says, "Restore!"

Is 58:6-8 Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, and not hide yourself from your own flesh? Then your light shall break forth like the morning. Your healing shall spring forth speedily, and your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Is 61:1-4 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn; To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified. And they shall rebuild the old ruins; They shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations.

Matt 4:1 The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

Luke 1:79 [He came] to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide their feet into the way of peace.

Luke 15:20 And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

Heb 5:2 He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since He Himself is also subject to weakness.

Justice, Truth and Peace at the Gates

Zech. 8:16c

Justice

Is 9:7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Ps 89:14 Justice and judgment are the habitation of Thy throne: mercy and truth go before Thy face.

Ps 9:7-9 The Lord reigns forever; He has established His throne for judgment. He will judge the world in righteousness; He will govern the people with justice. The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

Zech 7:9-10 This is what the Lord Almighty says:
"Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other."

Ezek 34:16 I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

Truth

Jer 5:1 Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it.

Ps 43:3 O send out Thy light and Thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto Thy holy hill, and to Thy tabernacles.

Ps 51:6 Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part Thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

Ps 54:5 He shall reward evil unto mine enemies: cut them off in Thy truth.

Ps 85:10-11 Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

Isa 26:2 Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in.

John 17:17 Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth.

Peace

Is 32:16-18 Justice will dwell in the desert and righteousness live in the fertile field. The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever. My people will

live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.

Heb 13:20-21 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Rom 16:20 And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Col 1:20 And having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself, by Him I say, whether they be things in earth or things in heaven.

Luke 1:79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Mercy

Exod 33:19 Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."

Num 14:19 Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.

Deut 5:10 And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me and keep My commandments.

1 Chr 16:34 O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good; for his mercy endures forever.

Ps 13:5 But I have trusted in Thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in Thy salvation.

Ps 25:16 Turn Yourself to me, and have mercy on me, for I am desolate and afflicted.

Ps 36:5 Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; and Thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds.

Ps 51:1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions.

Ps 85:7 Show us Your mercy, Lord, and grant us Your salvation.

Ps 85:10 Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Ps 86:15 But Thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

Ps 89:14 Justice and judgment are the habitation of Thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before Thy face.

Ps 90:14 O satisfy us early with Thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Ps 119:64 The earth, O LORD, is full of Your mercy; Teach me Your statutes.

Prov 3:3 Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck. Write them on the tablet of your heart.

Isa 49:10 They shall neither hunger nor thirst, neither heat nor sun shall strike them; For He who has mercy on them will lead them, even by the springs of water He will guide them.

Isa 49:13 Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted His people, and will have mercy upon His afflicted.

Isa 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the

LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

Hosea 2:23 And I will sow her unto Me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not My people, Thou art My people; and they shall say, Thou art my God.

Hosea 10:12 Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till He come and rain righteousness upon you.

Zech 7:9 Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Execute true justice, show mercy and compassion everyone to his brother.

Matt 9:13 But go and learn what this means: "I desire mercy and not sacrifice." For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Praying for the Harvest in a Location

Bless God.

For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him: And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. *Col 1:16-17*

I am the first and the last: I am He that liveth, and was dead...I am alive for evermore... and have the keys of hell and of death. *Rev1:17-18*

...He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them. *Hb 7:25*

God demonstrated His love toward us... while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. *Rm5:8*

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created. *Rev 4:11*

Ask Father, as did Moses, “Look not at the stubbornness of this people, nor to their idolatries, nor to their sin.” *Dt 9:27*

Stand in the gap confessing the sins of . . .

Release the works of the Blood that it draws them nigh unto the Lord (*Eph. 2:13*) and purges their consciences from dead works, setting them free to serve the Living God (*Heb. 9:14*). Declare that by the sprinkling of His Blood mouths of kings are being shut, and men are seeing, hearing, and considering things they had not. *Is 52:15*

Recognize that these people are robbed and spoiled; they are all snared in holes, and they are hid in prison houses: they are for a prey, but this day I stand here in the name of Jesus Christ and **Declare** them delivered; and restored. *Is. 42:7,16,22*

Decree in the name of the Lord and by the power of His might that blind eyes are opening, prisoners are coming out from the prison, and those that sit in darkness are out of the prison house. *Is. 42:7*

Agree with scripture that Jesus is bringing the blind by a way that they knew not; that He is leading them in paths that they have not known: that He will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will He do unto them, and not forsake them. *Is. 42:16*

Decree that God's light has shined in their hearts, giving them the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. *2 Cor. 4:6*

Release the truth that if they confess with their mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in their heart that God has raised Jesus from the dead, they shall be saved. For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Release the truth that by grace are they saved through faith, not of works, it is a gift of God. *Rm. 10:9-10, Eph. 2:8-9*

Agree with Jesus' words, that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No man comes to Father except by Jesus. *Jn. 14:6*

Decree that they are turning from the power of Satan unto God, receiving forgiveness of sins, and their inheritance...in Jesus. *Lk. 26:18*

Decree that now is the time when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and that all those who hear shall live. *Jn. 5:25*

Agree with scripture that Jesus is opening their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures. *Lk. 24:45*

For False Religions:

Decree these people will become alert and resist the spoiling of their souls through philosophy and vain deceit, after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world and not after Christ. *Col. 2:9*

Father we ask You to release a revelation that it's by grace that we serve You acceptably with reverence and godly fear. *Heb. 12:28 68*

(Created by the Battle Axe Brigade ⁶⁸)

The Light

Matt 4:16 The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned."

Acts 13:47 For so the Lord has commanded us: "I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth."

Acts 26:18 [I send you now] to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

Eph 5:14 Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

2 Cor 4:6 For it is God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Ps 18:28 For You will light my lamp; The Lord my God will enlighten my darkness.

Ps 27:1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?

Ps 43:3 Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; Let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your tabernacle.

Ps 119:130 The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.

Is 9:2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.

Is 42:7 [Jesus came] to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house.

Is 42:16 I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, and not forsake them.

Justice and Judgment Scriptures Compiled From *Justice Wrapped in Mercy*

Introduction

For when Thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. Isaiah 26:9b

Chapter 1

But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Matthew 9:36

Blessed are the poor, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 6:3

Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which He hath promised to them that love Him? James 2:5

[He] arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth. Psalm 76:9

For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see. John 9:39

Now is the judgment of this world: now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself. John 12:31, 32

Behold, I cry out of wrong, but I am not heard: I cry aloud, but there is no judgment. Job 19:7

We all growl like bears, and moan sadly like doves. We look for justice, but there is none...Isaiah 59:11

The captive exile hastens, that he may be loosed, that he should not die in the pit, and that his bread should not fail. Isaiah 51:14

And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, 'The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, because He is holy and true to His Name. Exodus 34:6,7

Open your mouth for the speechless, in the cause of all who are appointed to die. Open your mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy. Proverbs 31:8,9

Chapter 2

Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. Isaiah 42:1

But this is a people robbed and spoiled; they are all of them snared in holes, and they are hid in prison houses: they are for a prey, and none delivereth; for a spoil, and none saith, Restore. Isaiah 42:22

Chapter 3

Justice and judgment are the habitation of Thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before Thy face. Psalm 89:14

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

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne. Psalm 97:2b

But the Lord of Hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness. Isaiah 5:16

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

But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth Me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord. Jeremiah 9:24

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon Him called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war. Revelation 19:11

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

Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. Isaiah 9:7

Chapter 4

Mercy triumphs over judgment. James 2:13

He doth execute judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment. Deut. 10:18

To judge the fatherless and the oppressed, that the man of the earth may no more oppress. Psalm 10:18

He shall judge the poor of the people, He shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor. Psalm 72:4

The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established forever. Proverbs 29:14

Zion hears and is glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoice because of Your judgments, O Lord. Psalm 97:8

I will sing of mercy and justice. Psalm 101:1a

He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till He has set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for His law. Psalm 67:4

Then shall the trees of the wood sing out at the presence of the Lord, because He cometh to judge the earth. 1 Chronicles 16:33

And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counselors, as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city. Isaiah 1:26

O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for Thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon the earth. Psalm 67:4

Chapter 5

Nevertheless the Lord raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them. And when the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the Lord was moved to pity for their groaning because of those who oppressed them and harassed them. Judges 2:16,18

And they judged the people at all times; the hard causes they brought to Moses, but they judged every small case themselves. Ex. 18:26

You shall appoint judges and officers in all your gates, which the Lord your God gives you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with just judgment. Deuteronomy 16:18

For the Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Lawgiver, the Lord is our King; He will save us. Isaiah 33:22

Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy. Psalm 82:3

And Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart, when he goeth in unto the holy place, for a memorial before the Lord continually. Exodus 28:29

Chapter 6

Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand, to execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples; To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; To execute on them the written judgment—This honor have all His saints. Psalm 149:6-9

He who is holy, He who is true. He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens. I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it. Revelation 3:7,8
Then He made him that remaineth have dominion over the nobles among the people: the Lord made me have dominion over the mighty. Judges 5:13

And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him. Daniel 7:27

And ye shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land, and dwell therein: for I have given you the land to possess it. Numbers 33:53

O house of David, this is what the Lord says: Administer justice every morning; rescue from the hand of his oppressor the one who has been robbed, or my wrath will break out and burn like fire because of the evil you have done—burn with no one to quench it. Jeremiah 21:12

This is what the Lord Almighty says: Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other. Zechariah 7:9-10

I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy. Psalm 140:2

Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. Matthew 23:23

Chapter 8

The king establishes the land by justice. Proverbs 29:4a

My son, if you receive My words, and treasure My commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding...Then you will understand righteousness and justice, equity and every good path. Proverbs 2:1-3,9

By Me [wisdom] kings reign, and rulers decree justice. Proverbs 8:15

The speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing. Then God said to him: Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you. 1 Kings 3:10-12

So Jehoshaphat dwelt at Jerusalem ... and set judges in the land throughout all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city, and said to the judges, Take heed to what you are doing, for you do not judge for man but for the Lord, who is with you in the judgment. Now therefore, let the fear of the Lord be upon you; take care and do it, for there is no iniquity with the Lord our God, no partiality, nor taking of bribes. 2 Chronicles 19:4-7

Hear the word of the LORD, O king of Judah, you who sit on the throne of David, you and your servants and your people who enter these gates! 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. For if you indeed do this thing, then shall enter the gates of this house, riding on horses and in chariots, accompanied by servants and people, kings who sit on the throne of David. Jeremiah 22:2-4

And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove (decide, judge, rebuke, correct) after the

hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity (to be upright, be straight, be just) for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. Isaiah 11:3-4

Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy. Proverbs 31:9

Chapter 9

The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom, and his tongue talks of justice. Psalm 37:30

With my soul have I desired Thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek Thee early. For when Thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. Isa. 26:9

Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem. See now and know, and seek in her open places if you can find a man, if there is anyone who executes judgment, who seeks the truth, and I will pardon her. Jer. 5:1

Yet setteth He the poor on high from affliction, and maketh His families like a flock. The righteous shall see it, and rejoice: and all iniquity [violent deeds of injustice. Thayer's Lexicon H5766] shall stop her mouth. Ps.107:41-42

I can of Mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and My judgment is just; because I seek not Mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent Me. John 5:30

The meek will He guide in judgment. The meek will He teach His way. Psalm 25:9

These are the things that ye shall do: Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbor; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates. Zechariah 8:16

With my lips I have declared all the judgments of Your mouth. Psalm 119:13

Let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream. Amos 5:24

At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto Thee because of Thy righteous judgments. Psalm 119:62

Seven times a day do I praise Thee because of Thy righteous judgments. Psalm 119:164

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Isaiah 35:10

Endnotes

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