

Justice

Theo Potgieter

4 September 2011

1 Kings 3: 7-15

7 And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. 8 And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. 9 Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to **govern** your people, that I **may discern between good and evil**, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

1 Kings 3: 7-15

10 It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. 11 And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, 12 behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, **I give you a wise and discerning mind**, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.

1 Kings 3: 7-15

13 I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. 14 And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days." 15 And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

1 Kings 3: 7-15

Solomon's Wisdom

16 Then two **prostitutes** came to the king and stood before him. 17 The one woman said, "Oh, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house, and I gave birth to a child while she was in the house. 18 Then on the third day after I gave birth, this woman also gave birth. And we were alone. There was no one else with us in the house; only we two were in the house. 19 And this woman's son died in the night, because she lay on him.

1 Kings 3: 7-15

20 And she arose at midnight and took my son from beside me, while your servant slept, and laid him at her breast, and laid her dead son at my breast. 21 When I rose in the morning to nurse my child, behold, he was dead. But when I looked at him closely in the morning, behold, he was not the child that I had borne." 22 But the other woman said, "No, the living child is mine, and the dead child is yours." The first said, "No, the dead child is yours, and the

1 Kings 3: 7-15

living child is mine." Thus they spoke before the king. 23 Then the king said, "The one says, 'This is my son that is alive, and your son is dead'; and the other says, 'No; but your son is dead, and my son is the living one.'" 24 And the king said, "Bring me a sword." So a sword was brought before the king. 25 And the king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other." 26 Then the woman whose son was alive said to the king,

Do Justice

1 Kings 3: 7-15

because her heart yearned for her son, "Oh, my lord, give her the living child, and by no means put him to death." But the other said, "He shall be neither mine nor yours; divide him." 27 Then the king answered and said, "Give the living child to the first woman, and by no means put him to death; she is his mother." 28 And all Israel heard of the judgment that the king had rendered, and they stood in awe of the king, because they perceived that the wisdom of God was in him to do justice.

Judging

Judges 2: 11

11 Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals; 14 And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies.

Judging

Judges 2: 11

15 Wherever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for calamity, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were greatly distressed. 16 Nevertheless, the LORD raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them.

Judging

Judges 2: 11

17 Yet they would not listen to their judges, but they played the harlot with other gods, and bowed down to them. They turned quickly from the way in which their fathers walked, in obeying the commandments of the LORD; they did not do so. 18 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 by their groaning because of those who oppressed them and harassed them.

Justice

1. a sword symbolizing the court's coercive power;
2. a human scale weighing competing claims in each hand;
3. and a blindfold indicating impartiality.

Justice is a concept of moral rightness based on ethics, rationality, law, natural law, religion, fairness, or equity, along with the punishment of the breach of said ethics.

Lev 19: 13-15

13 "You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning. 14 You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD. 15 "You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor.

Ps 96: 9-11

9 Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!
10 Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; **he will judge the peoples with equity.**" 11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

Who

Ps 72: 2

May he **judge** your people with righteousness, and your poor with **justice**!

Jer 5: 28

they have grown fat and sleek. They know no bounds in deeds of evil; they **judge** not with **justice** the cause of the fatherless, to make it prosper, and they do not defend the rights of the needy.

Who

Heb 13: 3

"Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body."

Prov 20: 10

"The Lord hates both these things: dishonest weights and dishonest measures."
(NCV)

Who

Prov 22: 22-23

22 Do not rob the poor, because he is poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate, 23 for the LORD will plead their cause and rob of life those who rob them.

Micah 6: 8

8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?