



Personal Study Notes: How do you DO Justice?

INTRODUCTION: This document is a study completed by one of our members to answer the question, "How do you DO justice?" She shared this document with us during our January 28, 2015 meeting.¹ As you read this study, please keep a few things in mind. One, it is progressive in nature, so what may not make sense initially may make sense later on. Two, it is raw in form, because it is her personal journey to seek truth. And, lastly, just as she had outstanding questions, so may you, so we pray each soul that reads this will keep their heart and mind open for what the Holy Spirit will speak as He guides each of us into all truth. Now on to her study:

What does it mean to DO JUSTICE? This is a question I asked, and one that was returned to me for study. I have spent some time studying what THE WORD and in prayer. I've been provided some answers and arrived at more questions. The most honest representation that I could think of, was to share both the answers and questions to provide an opportunity for each of us to help one another further our understanding of just what it means to DO JUSTICE. Here we go ☺

I always prefer to begin a study with the definition of the thing being studied. Please find below a list of definitions for the word justice.

1. Just behavior or treatment
2. The quality of being fair or reasonable
3. The administration of the law or authority in maintaining this
4. A supreme judge
5. **JUSTICE** - jus'-tis (tsedhaqah; tsedheq; dikaiousune): The original Hebrew and Greek words are the same as those rendered "righteousness." This is the common rendering, and in about half the cases where we have "just" and "justice" in the King James Version, the American Standard Revised Version has changed to "righteous" and "righteousness." It must be constantly borne in mind that the two ideas are essentially the same. (Retrieved from <http://classic.net.bible.org/dictionary.php?word=JUSTICE>)

Now that I have a good understanding of the word itself, I wanted to know what THE WORD has to say about it. I've listed below the verses that I found, my interpretation of the verse, and my take on its influence on my query. You'll also find questions that I was led to ask. As you read the notes, you will be inside my head as I proceed. It doesn't get any more intimate than this ☺ For your references, I am using the New King James Version Study Bible and there are 22 uses of the word "justice" in the back of my Bible. My study will take us through all of them.

1. Deuteronomy 32:4
 - a. "For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.
2. Job 8:3
 - a. "Does God subvert judgment? Or does the Almighty pervert justice?"
 - b. **Study Notes:** Bildad argues that God could never pervert justice. The only conclusion was that Job and his children received what they deserved as sinners.

¹ Meeting Notes from the January 28, 2015 meeting can be located on the Meeting Notes page of the website: <http://www.wow2women.com/meeting-notes.html>.



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- c. **Trust Note:** This is interesting because I know that God, nor His actions, can be anything that He is not. If all that God does is justice, then He cannot pervert or subvert justice. His justice is perfect. We are not perfect, so it would stand to my reason that **we** can subvert and pervert justice. This is a good indication of why this study is so important. How do we purposefully play our role and stay out of His lane allowing his perfect justice to reign.
- 3. Psalm 37:6
 - a. "He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday."
 - b. **Context:** The Heritage of the Righteous and the Calamity of the Wicked. Right before this verse, David is telling us to commit our way to The Lord and trust in Him, and He will "bring forth righteousness as the light and justice as the noonday."
 - c. **Trust Note:** I took a couple of things from this. I'm not sure how they will fit in, but here they are. First, righteousness is within us already. When we are told to let our light shine, our light is our righteousness. If we are not walking in our righteousness, we have no light. The absence of light is darkness. The interesting thing about darkness is that it absorbs more energy than light and reflects back less energy. So imagine the drain of people who are filled with darkness as opposed to those filled with the light of righteousness. A righteous person absorbs less energy and reflects more light. Crazy...
- 4. Psalm 72:2
 - a. "He will judge your people with righteousness"
 - b. **Context:** Glory and Universality of Messiah's Reign written by Solomon.
 - c. **Trust Note:** When I read this, I think of Deuteronomy 32:4. All of His ways are Justice. Also, as in Job 8:3 where we are reminded that God could never pervert justice. This says that if we are living a righteous life, we should not fear His just judgment or His justice.
- 5. Psalm 72:4
 - a. "He will bring justice to the poor of the people; he will save the children of the needy, and will break in pieces, the oppressor."
 - b. **Context:** Glory and Universality of Messiah's Reign written by Solomon.
 - c. **Study Notes:** This psalm is intensely messianic (inspired by hope of belief in a messiah), speaking in ideal terms of the coming of the great King. The psalm calls for a good king to govern Israel under God's blessing.
 - d. **Trust Notes: (QUESTION)** If, this is based on idealism, how much of this should be taken verbatim? As I read back over this, I find a peace within myself because this is a prophecy, a promise. I know so far, that His justice is perfect and will be extended to the poor, the needy, and to all of the oppressors. All I need to do, is make sure that I do not become an oppressor in my attempt to dole out justice, which I've already ascertained may be as imperfect as I am.
- 6. Psalm 82:3
 - a. "Defend the poor and the fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and the needy."
 - b. **Context:** A Plea for Justice written by Asaph, a wisdom Psalm which is structured as follows:
 - i. God's call for the judges of the earth to appear in the heavenly assembly
 - ii. God's review of his commands to the judges of the earth
 - iii. God's hearing of the complaints of the oppressed



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- iv. God's announcement of his judgment of the judges of the earth
 - v. The prayer of the people of the earth for diving justice
 - c. **Trust Notes:** As people we are told not to judge and to leave that to Him. But, even those called to be judges are to do so within the perimeters of His commands. He tells us what this looks like very clearly: defend the poor and the fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and the needy. I do find it interesting that it does not mention the motherless, but the fatherless. Perhaps that is a question to answer? **When He says fatherless, does it mean those without Him? Or those without actual fathers...?**
7. Psalm 89:14
- a. "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne: Mercy and truth go before Your face."
 - b. **Context:** Remembering the Covenant with David, and Sorrow for Lost Blessings, written by Ethan. It begins as a celebration of God's covenant with David and ends lamenting how David's descendants had not remained faithful to the provisions of the covenant.
 - c. **Study Notes:** "God is the great Deliverer, He brandished His arm and hand in delivering His people from Egypt (Exodus 6:6; 15:6). Righteousness and justice means utter justice. Mercy and truth may be rephrased as "unbreakable loyalty."
 - d. **Trust Notes:** Righteousness and Justice are often used together or in an exchangeable manner. I will want to review the uses and compare their meanings at some point. **It sounds as if Righteousness and Justice are for Him to dole and Mercy and Truth are our business. If we have Mercy and Truth as our foundation (unbreakable loyalty to Him) then we may go before Him. Is this how we DO JUSTICE?** Let's keep reading ☺
8. Proverb 16:8
- a. "Better is a little righteousness than vast revenues without justice."
 - b. **Study Notes:** "these verses contrast human limitations with the sovereignty of God. Man can plan, dream, and hope, but the final outcome is from the Lord. Rather than resign ourselves to fate," we should trust in God. Our loving Lord is in control of seemingly chaotic situations. All of the injustices of this world will be corrected some glorious day.
 - c. **Trust Notes:** To full understand this, one would need to understand the words righteousness and justice. Or, at least I would need to understand them. I think it's saying that it is better to live a life allowing God to bestow us with righteousness, which may mean that we have little material gain or revenue in this life, than to lead a life with vast revenues attained by living an unjust life. I will probably end up looking back at this verse as I study righteousness versus justice at some point in the near future.
9. Proverb 28:5
- a. "Evil men do not understand justice; but those who seek The Lord understand all."
 - b. **Study Notes:** "When a person abandons God's law, he or she loses all sense of right and praises the wicked (See Roman 1: 28-32 {and even as they refused to have God in their knowledge, God gave them up unto a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malignity, whisperers, backbiters, hateful to God, insolent, haughty,



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- boastful, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, unmerciful: who, knowing the ordinance of God, that they that practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but also consent with them that practice them}).
- c. **Trust Notes:** I find this interesting because once again, it is more detrimental to know God and refuse Him than it is to have never known Him at all. Before accepting Him as Lord, a person has an internal compass as to what is right and wrong, whether they allow it to guide them or not, is up to him or her. Once we've accepted the Lord, He is the moral compass and His word the arrow pointing out good, evil, and not good. At this point, we no longer have to decide what is good, evil, or not good. We just have to refer to The Word and trust that The Lord is righteous and just and commit to playing our role. This makes me think back to Psalm 89:14, where we are told that Mercy and Truth (or unbreakable loyalty) go before His face. Once we know Him, and if we break our loyalty to Him, we lose our compass. Before we believe, we have a natural internal compass for good and evil. Once we know Him, we turn that in for Him to be our compass pointing out what is good, not good, and evil. Once we turn our back on Him, we have no compass, meaning the only way to get back to a life of moral direction is to turn back to Him. This makes the verse make much more sense. It's not figurative, it's literal. If, we define Evil men as men who know the Lord and choose to deny Him, then Evil men really do not understand justice. They don't have the ability having turned in their connection to truth and mercy by turning their back on the Lord. This once again defines justice for us to me, as truth and mercy.
- d. **Side Note:** I think I would like to explore the verse Matthew 6:10 "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth. If I take this literally, then His throne's foundation of righteousness and justice are the same as our spiritual foundation of Mercy and Truth. If I take this further: Righteousness = Mercy and Justice = Truth. There is something here and I'd like to flesh it out soon.
10. Isaiah 28:17
- a. "Also 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."
- b. **Study Notes:** In response to the people's scoffing The Lord God promises to establish His future Kingdom on the sure foundation of justice and faith. The apostles identified the stone for a foundation as Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:4-6 {unto whom coming, a living stone, rejected indeed of men, but with God elect, precious, ye also, as living stones, are built upon a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Because it is contained in scripture, behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: And he that believeth on him shall not be put to shame.})
- c. **Side Note:** Definitions of Plummet
- i. A steep and rapid fall or drop
 - ii. A plumb or plumb line
 1. Plumb defined: the test of an upright (vertical) surface



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- d. **Trust Note:** So as I'm thinking on this, I see that we are measured by justice and tested through our righteousness. (Or per my thoughts on the side note for # 9, we are measured by our mercy and tested by the truth). Again this is something to ponder. A question to present to the group perhaps.

11. Isaiah 30: 18

- a. "Therefore the Lord will wait that He may be gracious to you; and therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; Blessed are all those who wait for Him."
- b. **Study Notes:** God's justice demands that the Assyrian oppressors be punished (Judges 2:16, this refers to the people of Jerusalem turning their backs on God and worshipping false gods and falling into the hands of oppressors. God didn't forsake them, instead he was merciful and grew up judges amongst them and saved them from the oppressor as long as the judges lived ; however, the people didn't learn their lessons and their children once again turned to the false gods when the judges died, and sinned worse than their fathers.) God's gracious character and his mercy are balanced; they interact with his justice and the fact that He will be exalted.
 - i. Exalted:
 - 1. Held in high regard
 - 2. In a state of extreme happiness
- c. **Trust Notes:** ...blessed are those who wait for him. For me, this strengthens my idea that for us to do justice, we are tasked with loyalty to mercy and truth. Anything else should be left to Him. Blessed are those who wait for him. He is patient with us when we are wrong, we should be able to show him the same patience when we are wronged. Our loyalty to mercy and the truth should make this easier: mercy for those that do us wrong, and loyalty to the truth presented in The Word that He will not forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:6 – Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be affrighted at them...for He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.)

12. Isaiah 42:1

- a. "Behold, My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One whom My soul delights! He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles."
- b. **Study Notes:** The Lord formally presents His servant. The title, MY SERVANT, refers to Jesus Christ NT Matthew 12: 15-21 *"And Jesus perceiving it withdrew from thence, and many followed him; and he healed them all, and charged them that they should not make him known; that it might be fulfilled which was spoken through Isaiah the prophet saying, Behold, my servant whom I have chosen; my beloved in whom my soul is well pleased; I will put my Spirit upon him, and he shall declare judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not strive, nor cry aloud; neither shall any one hear his voice in the streets. A business reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, Till he send forth judgment unto victory. And in his name shall the Gentiles hope."* Only Christ brings universal justice and an everlasting covenant. When God upholds a person. Nothing can bring him down. The Servant, Jesus, possessed the Holy Spirit which empowered him to bring justice to the world.



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13. Isaiah 59:4

- a. “No one calls for justice, nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; they conceive evil and bring forth inequity.
- b. **Context:** This describes people who are separated from God.
- c. **Trust Notes:** this is in an alignment with Proverbs 28:5 which tells us that Evil men do not understand justice and Roman 1:28-32 which describes the unfitting things these people do.

14. Psalm 59:14

- a. “Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off for truth is fallen in the street and equity cannot enter.”
- b. **Context:** The verse before this reads: “In transgression and lying against the Lord, and departing from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart, words of falsehood...”
- c. Define Equity: the quality of being fair and impartial
- d. **Trust Notes:** It's almost as if, with these actions, we deflect justice and repel righteousness. These are not passive acts. They are intentional acts based upon our own choices. This is interesting because if I'm right in my thoughts denoted in # 9, in this stage we are unable to choose to behave differently. We have no moral compass because when we turn our back on God, He gives us up to a reprobate mind. Our only hope for redemption is to turn back to Him with unfailing loyalty. To do otherwise is to choose to deflect Justice and Repel righteous, to become a place where equity cannot enter.

15. Isaiah 61: 8

- a. “For I, the Lord, love justice, I hate robbery for burnt offering I will direct their work in truth, and will make with them an everlasting covenant.”
- b. **Context:** This is the 5th of the Servants songs. In this song, the emphasis is on the Servants Mission. It is titled: The Good News of Salvation.
- c. **Trust Notes:** The Lord loves justice. This one simply says that He loves justice.

16. Jeremiah 31:23

- a. “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: “They shall again use this speech in the land of Judah and in its cities, when I bring back their captivity: “The Lord bless you, O home of justice, and mountain of holiness.”
- b. **Context:** This is written by the prophet Jeremiah describing a dream he had of the future prosperity of Judah.
- c. **Study Notes:** “Mountain of Holiness refers to the ideal city of Jerusalem, the holy mountain home of God, the Righteous One, and Judah, His righteous remnant. As with Israel, Judah's reestablishment would see renewed productivity of its crops and flocks and the people would be satiated.”
- d. **Trust Notes:** for me, this reminds us that the Lord is just and righteous, but doesn't lend to my understanding of how to do justice in my own life.

17. Ezekiel 45:9

- a. “Thus says the Lord God: Enough, O princes of Israel! Remove violence and plundering, execute justice and righteousness, and stop dispossessing My people, says the Lord God.”



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- b. **Context:** The Lord is declaring how things will be hence forward to the princes of Israel. The thing that sticks out the most to me is that He is telling them to execute justice and righteousness.
 - i. Define Execute: carry out or put into effect.
 - ii. Greek: ektelései: perform, execute, carry out, implement, do, enact.
 - c. **Trust Notes:** This solidifies that both justice and righteousness are something to be done. They are not necessarily only something to be, but they are in fact actionable words. I'm led back to #9, where I was led to the belief that for us, doing justice boils down to behaving mercifully toward others and having an unfailing loyalty to Him. If we are doing this, we are doing justice as commanded.
18. Daniel 4:37
- a. "Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride, he is able to put down."
 - b. **Context:** This section of the bible is titled: Nebuchadnezzar Praises God.
 - c. **Trust Notes:** This is interesting because Daniel 4:34 says that "At the end of this time I lifted my eyes to the heaven, and my understanding returned to me. This adds on to my thoughts that once we have turned away from him and in effect have chosen to deflect justice and repel righteousness becoming a place where equity cannot dwell, the only way to save ourselves is to turn back to the Lord with unfailing loyalty and Nebuchadnezzar is a great example of how it works. For him, he said it was instant..."at the same time, my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me (Daniel 4: 36).
19. Hosea 12:6
- a. "So you, by the help of your God, return: Observe mercy and justice, And wait on your God continually."
 - b. **Context:** This is in the section titled: God's Continuing Love for Israel.
 - c. **Study notes:** "Just as Jacob had come to his senses and recognized his dependence on God, So Israel was to repent (return), reestablish justice in society, and depend, wait on the Lord.
 - d. **Trust Notes:** to me this is a great example, of what needs to be done when we have turned away from the Lord and have come to realization of our dependence of Him. Repent (return), reestablish unfailing loyalty, and depend (wait) upon the Lord. That is how we do justice and live righteously.
20. Zechariah 7:9
- a. "Execute true justice, show mercy and compassion everyone to his brother."
 - b. **Context:** This is from a section titled: Disobedience resulted in Captivity. Basically the Lord is offering the people a way out from their depravity. He's telling them how to make things better and get back on a just and righteous track.
 - c. **Trust Notes:** This tells us how the Lord wants us to treat our brothers and is an actual demonstration of God's own mercy . Even though the people are grossly misbehaving, He



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offers them a blueprint to the way out. They don't take it, but He does offer it. Thus He scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations which they had not known.

21. Malachi 2:17

- a. "You have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet you say, In what way have we wearied him? In that you say, Everybody Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, And he delights in them. Or, where is the God of justice?"
- b. **Context:** This is in a section called: Treachery of Infidelity
- c. **Study Notes:** The Lord is wearied by people who do not submit to Him but who argue their points against His very revelation. When justice comes they will be sorry they asked.
- d. **Trust Notes:** This was awesome for me personally. I don't know that it goes to my study of how to do justice but it does go to show me the Lord feels my pain when I am dealing with my daughter and her aggressive personality. She is always ready to throw 50 thousand words at you in her defense should you raise any word to her about her actions. It's nice to know the Lord feels my pain.

22. Acts 8:31

- a. "In His humiliation His justice was taken away, and who will declare his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."
- b. **Context:** Phillip is told to overtake a chariot in which an Ethiopian is reading scripture in Isaiah. Phillip asks the man if he understands and the Ethiopian asks how he can understand without a guide.
- c. **Study Notes:** This is meant to show us that the Spirit of God does not eliminate the need for study but to make study effective.
- d. **Trust Notes:** I take away from the specific passage that once we realize we have gone off the reservation and turned our backs on the Lord, we may be humiliated, but we cannot allow our humiliation to lead us to death. We must conquer this and return to the Lord as described in Hosea 12:6

Ultimately, I have arrived at this conclusion. To DO JUSTICE in the world is to DO JUSTICE to The Word. The justice of judgment is not our lane. It's His. The justice of judgment requires perfection and we know all of His ways are justice. The best we can hope to do is to live a life with as close to unfailing loyalty to His Word as we can. Our eye to justice should be pointed toward Him rather than others. The trap that I can see before me is believing justice is something I have a right to dole out to those around me as I believe is right. I can even see when there are times I may find a scripture to uphold my lust for revenge masquerading as justice. But the truth is The Word is a weapon to be wielded at the enemy, not our brothers and sisters. If I define Doing Justice in the world as doing justice to The Word, then my eyes are fixed on Him. I necessarily spend less time looking inward noticing offense, exuding darkness, and absorbing the light around me without giving much – if any – back and more time looking upward recognizing His Righteousness and Justice exuding mercy and truth to His exaltation.