



Portion:

Title:

## SCRIPTURES

- Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9
- Psalms 94:15-23
- Isaiah 30:20-21

## THE JUSTICE LEAGUE

- The Return of Justice
- Matters of Controversy
- Ancient Boundaries

*Throughout human history, has there ever been a time when those in power DID NOT intend to manipulate and deceive the unsuspecting masses? First instigate division among the people and help them develop a goodly amount of contempt for one another. Then control them like puppets. Divide and conquer! There's nothing new under the sun and, no surprise, it's happening even now. Could there be more deception, more division?*

*The question I want you to ponder today is this; has this insidious problem ever been remedied by revealing the truth behind the curtain? Does exposing the corruption ever bring justice? Or, instead does it further the twisted deception? Simply observe what is happening. The louder the truth-tellers scream, the harder the deceivers dig in and the more bizarre their stories become. And if*

*the truth is just too difficult to twist, censor it, or delete it, or just re-write history altogether and publish a new narrative.*

*I don't write this to depress you or make you afraid, quite the contrary. And I'm not saying there is no value in screaming the truth from the rooftops. People do need to hear the truth. What I am saying is this...there is a better remedy. The solution is spiritual! The Church must act like the Church. God's righteous elect are the remedy, if we would just take our proper seat of authority!*

*Let me paraphrase the prophetic Psalmist. God will not tolerate corrupt rulers who kill the innocent and make injustice legal forever. True justice will indeed return to the courts, governed by righteous men.*

*It's time for the JUSTICE LEAGUE to arise. No, not a lineup of fictional superheroes. JUSTICE is righteous judgment. And a LEAGUE is a collection of people who collaborate, cooperate, align, and conspire for a particular purpose. Sure, keep shouting the truth for the few who will listen, but more importantly, become a people through whom Yahweh can administer HIS JUSTICE!*

## **THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE**

“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**. You shall **not pervert**

**justice**; you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of **the righteous**. You shall follow what is **altogether just**, that you may live and inherit the land which the Lord your God is giving you.”

Deuteronomy 16:18-20 NKJV

“**If a matter arises** which is too hard for you to judge, between degrees of guilt for bloodshed, between one judgment or another, or between one punishment or another, **matters of controversy** within your gates, then you shall arise and go up to the place which the Lord your God chooses. **And you shall come to the priests**, the Levites, and to the judge there in those days, and inquire of them; **they shall pronounce upon you the sentence of judgment.**”

Deuteronomy 17:8-9 NKJV

## **OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE**

### **Three Versions of the same Scripture:**

“But **judgment will return to righteousness**, And all the **upright in heart** will follow it. **Who will rise up** for me against the **evildoers**? **Who will stand up** for me against the **workers of iniquity**?” Psalms 94:15-16 NKJV

“**Judgment** will again be **founded on righteousness**, and all the **upright in heart** will follow it. **Who will rise up** for me against the

**wicked? Who will take a stand** for me against **evildoers?**” Psalms 94:15-16 NIV

**“Justice** will again be **found in the courts**, and all **righteous people** will support it. **Who stood up for me** against the **wicked? Who took my side** against the **evildoers?**” Psalm 94:15-16 GNT

## Let’s Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. This portion of scripture reviews many recently written commands. But as Deuteronomy does at times, it also introduces some commands not mentioned previously. We know they must have been, as this is the second telling, yet we see them in writing for the first time. One such law is mentioned in verses 17:18-20, which commands a King of Israel, as he takes the throne, to write for himself a complete copy of the Torah in his own hand. This will be our main topic of discussion this week, but so many other important pieces are reviewed on which we will elaborate in the future:
  - (a) Justice Must be Administered
  - (b) Principles of Governing Kings
  - (c) The Portion of the Priests and Levites
  - (d) Avoid Wicked Customs
  - (e) A Prophet Like Moses

- (f) Three Cities of Refuge
  - (g) Property Boundaries
  - (h) The Law Concerning Witnesses
  - (i) Principles Governing Warfare
  - (j) The Law Concerning Unsolved Murders
2. The commandment for the king to write a copy of the Torah for himself is prophetic of Messiah as the Word made flesh. He is the copy of the Torah in human form. The King **writes for himself** a Torah scroll just as **we are to write God's laws on our own hearts**. It is not for us to wait for God to do that work. And the Torah of King Y'shua is written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts (2 Corinthians 3:3).

### **Deuteronomy 16**

3. **Justice Must be Administered:** Righteous judges and law enforcement are necessary for healthy governance. However, those placed in these positions must be just and free from the temptation to take bribes or to pervert justice. This paraphrase says it all; "A bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous." Deuteronomy 16:19
4. Then Moses specifically address pagan practices. Yahweh hates pagan images or modes of worship, and defective sacrifices, which He calls an abomination. What happens if you suspect

someone of worshiping and serving other gods? First there will be a diligent inquiry. If it is indeed true that such an abomination has occurred, then capital punishment is in order.

5. However, *“Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness. The hands of the witnesses shall be the first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people.”* Deuteronomy 17:6-7

NKJV

6. Lastly, in the justice department, we see what to do in difficult cases. If the decision is too complicated and there exists too much controversy over what is correct, inquire of the priests to resolve the issue. The priest will discern precisely what is right and pronounce the sentence of judgment. Do exactly according to all that they order. Do not turn aside to the right hand or to the left from the sentence which they pronounce. Anyone who acts presumptuously and will not heed the priest's orders will be subjected to capital punishment.

## **Deuteronomy 17**

7. **Principles of Governing Kings:** Here we have this amazing prophetic picture. God knows that the people will eventually demand to have a king rule over them as the pagan's do, so He sets some parameters in place in advance. First, He will be the

one to choose the king. Then, notice the very things a king is not supposed to do. Unfortunately, this is exactly what Solomon eventually did 300 years later. **“The king shall not multiply horses for himself, neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.”** [See 1 Kings 10 which describes Solomon’s massive wealth and 1 Kings 11 which describes his hunger for women and his great fall.]

8. **The next section speaks for itself. It could be considered the single greatest duty of a righteous king. It also has prophetic implications for us as believers in THE KING:** *“Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, **that he shall write for himself** a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. **And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life,** that he may learn **to fear the LORD** his God and be careful **to observe all the words** of this law and these statutes, that **his heart may not be lifted above** his brethren, that **he may not turn aside** from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that **he may prolong his days** in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.”*

Deuteronomy 17:18-20 NKJV

## Deuteronomy 18

9. **The Portion of the Priests and Levites:** We are reminded yet again that the Levites have no part nor inheritance with Israel; and how they are provided for by the sacrifices and offerings of the people.
10. **Avoid Wicked Customs:** Again, like we saw in Leviticus 18:1-5, the people are reminded to not learn to follow the abominations of the nations they go to dispossess. Simply do not participate in a single pagan practice! Instead be blameless!
11. **A Prophet Like Moses:** This one area in Deuteronomy might generate one of the greatest controversies in our faith. And although there seems to be almost universal agreement throughout Christianity that the prophet like Moses being prophesied about here is Y'shua Himself, I see glaring inconsistencies with that belief. Now, one might ask themselves, "If nearly everyone agrees, other than a fraction of percent, then how could it possibly be in error?" I might also ask that question about the relevance of the Torah for the Church. It was universally believed across all denominations up until 60 years ago, or so, that Y'shua fulfilled the Torah and therefore we, as Christians, are not obligated to the commandments of God, other than the 10 commandments (minus the Sabbath). This is still held as a "sacred cow" by most



of Christianity today. Yet this too is dangerously inconsistent with Y'shua's words and warnings:

- (a) *"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled."* (Matthew 5:17-18)
- (b) *Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me."* (John 7:16)
- (c) *"Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"* (John 5:45-47)

12. So with an open mind, let us consider these words: *"The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.' And the LORD said to me: 'What they have spoken is good. I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall*

*...speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.” (Deuteronomy 18:15-19)*

13. And consider the following proof texts that indeed Moses is instead referring to Elijah as the prophet to come, and not Y’shua. (Acts 3:19-23; Matthew 3:1-17; Matthew 17:1-13; Isaiah 40:1-8; Malachi 3:1-3; Malachi 4:1-6; Luke 1:13-17; John 1:15-26)
14. After that, Moses warns us that prophets who presume to speak a word in Yahweh’s name, which He has not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die. You will know they spoke on their own when what they prophesy does not happen.
  - (a) *“But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.” II Peter 2:1-3 NKJV*

## **Deuteronomy 19**

15. **Three Cities of Refuge:** Again the cities of refuge and the parameters of who they are for are reiterated.
16. **Property Boundaries:** The great precedent for not messing with Israel's borders is next. *"You shall not remove your neighbor's landmark, which the men of old have set, in your inheritance which you will inherit in the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess."* Deuteronomy 19:14
17. **The Law Concerning Witnesses:** Now we see an expansion of what we just read in Deuteronomy 17:6-7. *"One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established. If a false witness rises against any man to testify against him of wrongdoing, then both men in the controversy shall stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges who serve in those days. And the judges shall make careful inquiry, and indeed, if the witness is a false witness, who has testified falsely against his brother, then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother; so you shall put away the evil from among you. And those who remain shall hear and fear, and hereafter they shall not again commit such evil among you. Your eye shall not pity: life shall be for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot."* Deuteronomy 19:15-21 NKJV (See how Y'shua masterfully applied these laws

to the woman accused of adultery in John 8:1-12 and what is says on the matter in Hebrews 10:26-29)

## **Deuteronomy 20**

**18. Principles Governing Warfare:** Many important concepts are included here about going into battle.

- (a) Do not be afraid or faint of heart; for the LORD your God is He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.'
- (b) Then there are a bunch of exceptions indicating who should not join in battle:
  - (1) A man who has built a new house and has not yet dedicated it.
  - (2) A man who has planted a vineyard and has not yet eaten of it.
  - (3) A man who is betrothed to a woman and has not yet married her.
  - (4) A man who is fearful and fainthearted.

**19.** What to do with an adversarial city that wishes to make peace verses one that chooses to fight back:

- (a) If they accept your offer of peace, and open to you, then all the people who are found in it shall be placed under tribute to you, and serve you. If the city will not make peace with you, then you shall besiege it, strike every male but take the

women, the little ones, the livestock, and all that is in the city, as spoils.

20. However, when you are dealing with cities God gives you as an inheritance, you shall let nothing that breathes remain alive, lest they teach you to do according to all their abominations which they have done for their gods. Do not destroy its trees if you can eat of them. Only destroy the trees which you know are not for good for food so you can use the wood to build siegeworks.

### **Deuteronomy 21**

21. **The Law Concerning Unsolved Murder:** The city closest to where the body is found is required to call the priests, make a sacrifice, and wash their hands over the sacrificed animal as a declaration of their innocence. *“So you shall put away the guilt of innocent blood from among you when you do what is right in the sight of the LORD.”* Deuteronomy 21:9
22. If you wish to see last year’s teaching on this portion: [Written on Our Hearts](#)

### THE RETURN OF JUSTICE

1. **Justice:** “for justice will return to the righteous, and all the upright in heart will follow it.” Psalm 94:15 ESV
- A. **A Prophetic Psalm**

- (1) The judges seat will return to those who practice righteousness!
- (a) Justice and Righteous Judgement—Versions to contemplate
1. “But **judgment** will return to **righteousness**, And all **the upright in heart will follow it.**” Psalms 94:15 NKJV
  2. “Judgment will again be **founded on righteousness**, and all the upright in heart will follow it.” Psalms 94:15 NIV
  3. “**Justice** will again be **found in the courts**, and all **righteous people will support it.**” Psalm 94:15 GNT

(2) Outcome! It’s time!

- (a) **Who will rise up?** “**Who will rise up** for me against the **evildoers? Who will stand up** for me against the **workers of iniquity?** Unless the Lord had been my help, My soul would soon have settled in silence.” Psalms 94:16-17 NKJV
- (b) **No worries; He’s got you!** “If I say, “My foot slips,” **Your mercy**, O Lord, will hold me up. In the multitude of my anxieties within me, **Your comforts** delight my soul.” Psalms 94:18-19 NKJV

- (c) **Those who legislate evil are enemies of Yahweh!** “Shall the throne of iniquity, **which devises evil by law**, Have fellowship with You?” Psalms 94:20 NKJV
- (d) **An indefensible indictment; they threaten God’s righteous and shed innocent blood!** “They gather together against the life of the righteous, And condemn innocent blood. But the Lord has been my defense, And my God the rock of my refuge. **He has brought on them their own iniquity, And shall cut them off in their own wickedness; The Lord our God shall cut them off.**” Psalms 94:21-23 NKJV

(3) The GOOD NEWS Translation!

- (a) “**Justice** will again be **found in the courts**, and all **righteous people will support it**. Who stood up for me against the wicked? **Who took my side against the evildoers?** If the Lord had not helped me, I would have gone quickly to the land of silence. I said, “I am falling”; but your constant love, O Lord, held me up. Whenever I am anxious and worried, you comfort me and make me glad. **You have nothing to do with corrupt judges, who make injustice legal, who plot against good people and sentence the innocent to death.** But the Lord defends me; my God protects me. **He will punish them for their**

wickedness and destroy them for their sins; the Lord  
our God will destroy them.” Psalm 94:15-23 GNT

**B. Analyzing Words: Don’t Miss the Power**

- (1) “for **justice (6664)** will return to the **righteous (4941)**, and  
all the **upright (3477)** in **heart (3820)** will **follow it (310)**.”

Psalm 94:15 ESV

- (a) **Justice/Just:** ([Strong's Hebrew 6664:](#)) Righteousness in government; righteous rulers and judges
- (b) **Righteous/Judgement:** ([Strong's Hebrew 4941:](#)) seat of judgment; just process and procedures
- (c) **Upright:** ([Strong's Hebrew 3477:](#)) correct; pleasing; just
- (d) **Heart:** ([Strong's Hebrew 3820:](#)) the inner man; mind; will; understanding; knowledge; thoughts; inclination; soul
- (e) **Will Follow:** ([Strong's Hebrew 310:](#)) what naturally follows what came before it (in the sentence);  
*“righteous men ruling in just governments and courts  
make right rulings and righteous followers are happy to  
comply!”*

**C. The types of judges approved by Yahweh and how they  
should rule!**

- (1) **Appoint law-abiding men (God’s law) who will sit in the  
seats of government, who will live by God’s laws and rule**



**according to those laws!** ““You shall appoint **judges** (8199 plural) and **officers** in all your gates, which the Lord your God gives you, according to your tribes, and they shall **judge** (also 8199) the people with **just** (6664) **judgment** (4941).” Deuteronomy 16:18 NKJV

- (a) **Judges** (Strong's Hebrew 8199:) to judge, govern, vindicate, punish; to act as law-giver or governor; to rule; to settle a controversy; to execute judgment
  - (b) **Justice/Just:** (Strong's Hebrew 6664:) Righteousness in government; righteous rulers and judges
  - (c) **Righteous/Judgement:** (Strong's Hebrew 4941:) seat of judgment; just process and procedures
- (2) **Righteous leaders do not change those rules for anyone nor entertain anyone who wishes to influence them in how they rule!** “You shall not **pervert** (5186) **justice** (4941); you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of **the righteous** (6662).” Deuteronomy 16:19 NKJV
- (a) **Pervert:** (Strong's Hebrew 5186:) Deny, stretch, influence, thrust aside, decline
  - (b) **Righteous/Judgement:** (Strong's Hebrew 4941:) seat of judgment; just process and procedures

- (c) **The Righteous:** ([Strong's Hebrew 6662:](#)) just, lawful, righteous, righteous (in government); right (in one's cause); righteous (in conduct and character); correct, lawful
- (3) **Justice that is pleasing to Yahweh and only that type of justice is acceptable; no exceptions allowed! “You shall follow what is altogether (6664) just (6664) , that you may live and inherit the land which the Lord your God is giving you. Deuteronomy 16:20 NKJV**
- (a) **Justice/Just:** ([Strong's Hebrew 6664:](#)) Righteousness in government; righteous rulers and judges
- (b) Deuteronomy 16:20 literally says you shall pursue JUSTICE JUSTICE (two times) translating into “altogether or utterly just.” Check out a few other translations:
1. “Justice, and only justice, you shall follow...” (ESV)
  2. “You shall pursue justice, and only justice [that which is uncompromisingly righteous]...” (AMP)
  3. “Follow justice and justice alone...” (NIV)
  4. “Follow righteousness, righteousness alone...” (TS2009)
- a) **Note:** *Verily verily I say unto you...* The word “verily” (the Hebrew word Amen: [Strong's Greek 281:](#) truly, surely, certainly) appears in 113

passages of Scripture. In the Gospel of John, it appears consecutively (Amen Amen) in twenty-five verses. It seems that only in John's Gospel do you find it used consecutively.

- b) Leading a sentence with "Amen" implies not only that truth will follow but that the person making the statement has firsthand knowledge of that truth and is an authority in such matters.
- c) When used consecutively it is intended to convey complete certainty with no possible exceptions.

### **Summary: THE RETURN OF JUSTICE**

1. Justice: "for justice will return to the righteous, and all the upright in heart will follow it." Psalm 94:15 ESV

#### A. A Prophetic Psalm

- (1) The judges seat will return to those who practice righteousness!
  - (a) Who will rise up against the evildoers?
  - (b) No worries; Yahweh's got you!
  - (c) Those who legislate evil are enemies of Yahweh!
  - (d) An indefensible indictment against the wicked; they threaten God's righteous and shed innocent blood!

B. The types of judges approved by Yahweh and how they should rule!

- (1) Appoint law-abiding men (God's law) who will sit in the seats of government, who will live by God's laws and rule according to those laws!
- (2) Righteous leaders do not change those rules for anyone nor entertain anyone who wishes to influence them in how they rule!
- (3) Justice that is pleasing to Yahweh and only that type of justice is acceptable; no exceptions allowed!

MATTERS OF CONTROVERSY

2. **The Righteous:** "for justice will return to the righteous, and all the upright in heart will follow it." Psalm 94:15 ESV

A. Who's in charge? It must be "the righteous!"

- (1) In matters of controversy, go to the Priest
  - (a) **If you have a matter to settle, go to a righteous man of God and He will tell you exactly what to do! "If a matter arises which is too hard for you to judge, between degrees of guilt for bloodshed, between one judgment or another, or between one punishment or another, **matters of controversy** within your gates, then you shall arise and go up to the place which the Lord**

your God chooses. **And you shall come to the priests, the Levites, and to the judge there in those days, and inquire of them; they shall pronounce upon you the sentence of judgment.**" Deuteronomy 17:8-9 NKJV

(2) Follow their orders!

- (a) **The sentence pronounced by the judge must be followed to the letter because it was decided precisely according to God's laws. God's laws govern all decisions, without compromise. This is why a righteous judge (one who is obeying God himself) is the one pronouncing the sentence!** "You shall do according to the sentence which they pronounce upon you in that place which the Lord chooses. **And you shall be careful to do according to all that they order you. According to the sentence of the law in which they instruct you, according to the judgment which they tell you, you shall do; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left** from the sentence which they pronounce upon you." Deuteronomy 17:10-11 NKJV

(3) Don't presume you will get away with non-compliance

- (a) **It would be very presumptuous of you to think you can rebel against the rulings set forth by the God-appointed judge and get away with it!** "Now **the man**

**who acts presumptuously** and will not heed the priest who stands to minister there before the Lord your God, or the judge, **that man shall die**. So you shall put away the evil from Israel. And all the people shall hear and fear, and no longer act presumptuously.” Deuteronomy 17:12-13 NKJV

**B. Where do you fit in all of this? How do you become one of Yahweh's righteous, justice-inspired judges!**

(1) It’s not just an Old-Testament thing—God is looking for righteous judges even now!

(a) **It’s clear that if there are any matters between believers, then those things should be settled in the Church. We see that we are also given charge to rule over things outside the Church. But the big question is this. Who should be appointed to do so? It is clear that it should be those who are highly esteemed. And it should also be clear that no-one can be considered such unless they are living as described earlier in Deuteronomy (a righteous judge, one who is obeying God himself, is the one pronouncing the sentence!):**

“Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?

**Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?**

And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? **How much more, things that pertain to this life?** If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, **do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge?** I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren?" I  
Corinthians 6:1-5 NKJV

**(b) So, how do you become a "man-of-God" worthy of "judge status" as indicated I Corinthians 6:1-5?**

(2) Pursue Righteousness

(a) **Pursue Righteousness as you run from your old ways. Live with a pure heart and be capable of settling disagreements, humbly and gently correcting any opposition, and perhaps some will come to their senses!** "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue **righteousness**, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility **correcting those**

**who are in opposition**, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may **come to their senses** and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.” II Timothy 2:22-26 NKJV

- (b) **Live godly lives and know His Word. When the Word is in you and informs all you think, say and do, you will be well-equipped for judge status! You will have the role of imparting good doctrine and instructing others in what is righteous. And you will be capable of administering reproof and correction, much like we see in the role of the judge in Deuteronomy. (*The sentence pronounced by the judge must be followed to the letter because it was decided precisely according to God's laws. God's laws govern all decisions, without compromise.*):** “Yes, and all who desire to **live godly in Christ Jesus** will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known **the Holy Scriptures**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith



which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**" II Timothy 3:12-17 NKJV

- (c) **Remember, when you are radically obedient to Yahweh, you are in charge!** "And the Lord will make you **the head and not the tail**; you shall be **above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments** of the Lord your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them." Deuteronomy 28:13 NKJV

### (3) Practice Righteousness

- (a) **It's not a "special calling." ALL born-again Christians are commanded to practice righteousness.** "If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who **practices righteousness** is born of Him." I John 2:29 NKJV
- (b) **The math is simple; He who practices righteousness is righteous and is not living in sin. Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God!** "Little children, let no one deceive you. **He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.** He who sins is of

the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. **Whoever has been born of God does not sin**, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: **Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God**, nor is he who does not love his brother.” I John 3:7-10 NKJV

(c) Practice righteousness—[See Love PART I](#)

(4) Discern Righteousness

(a) **Nothing New! It was Yahweh’s intention from the beginning that we conquer sin. Sin is lawlessness so it is obvious that we are to master the law in order to rule over sin!** “So the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, **sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.**”” Genesis 4:6-7 NKJV

1) **Practicing sin is the antithesis of practicing righteousness. Y’shua came to take away the sins we commit, yes, but also to empower us to STOP SINNING!** “Whoever **commits sin also commits**

lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. And you know that **He was manifested to take away our sins**, and in Him there is no sin." I John 3:4-5 NKJV

- (b) **The time is coming and is close at hand when there will be a great divide and final separation between those who know Yahweh and those who don't. Those who do will become the judges who separate the righteous from the wicked!** "Then **those who feared the Lord** spoke to one another, And the Lord listened and heard them; So **a book of remembrance was written** before Him For those who **fear the Lord And who meditate on His name**. "They shall be Mine," says the Lord of hosts, "**On the day that I make them My jewels**. And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him." **Then you shall again discern Between the righteous and the wicked**, Between one who serves God And one who does not serve Him." Malachi 3:16-18 NKJV

- (c) **The authority of the wicked will NO LONGER rule over the righteous and you will be required to pick a side! If you extend a hand to the wicked you will be judged with them!** "For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest On the land allotted to the righteous, Lest the

**righteous reach out their hands to iniquity.** Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, And to those who are upright in their hearts. **As for such as turn aside to their crooked ways, The Lord shall lead them away With the workers of iniquity.** Peace be upon Israel!" Psalms 125:3-5 NKJV

- (d) **Mature believers are those who are prepared to judge. What marks that maturity? You must be skilled in the word of righteousness (pursue, practice and discern what is righteous!). You must be able to discern good and evil!** "For though **by this time you ought to be teachers,** you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. **For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness,** for he is a babe. But **solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."** Hebrews 5:12-14 NKJV

- 1) **Notice that in the Garden it was a sin to apprehend the maturity to know good and evil spoken about in Hebrews 5. What's the distinction? The way you come to that knowledge! Hijack it or become skilled**

**in the word of righteousness? What irony! Your actions of disobeying God's commands, even to apprehend something that God ultimately wants you to have, is the very thing that will keep you from having what God wants for you!** “Then the Lord

God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, **to know good and evil**. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”—” Genesis 3:22 NKJV

- (e) **In your pursuit of righteousness, you will come up against wicked forces who wish to pervert the truth, calling good evil and evil good! “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”** Isaiah 5:20 NKJV

- (f) **Don't allow good and evil to become convoluted. The kingdom is about righteousness. And those who pursue, practice, and discern righteousness are best equipped to manifest the kingdom!** “Therefore **do not let your good be spoken of as evil**; for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, **but righteousness** and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in

these things is acceptable to God and approved by men." Romans 14:16-18 NKJV

(5) The Reward for Righteousness!

- (a) **Righteousness will endure and will be rewarded!** "So that men will say, **"Surely there is a reward for the righteous;** Surely He is God who judges in the earth."

Psalms 58:11 NKJV

- (b) "Yet the righteous will hold to his way, And he who has clean hands **will be stronger and stronger.**" Job 17:9 NKJV

**C. The Final Battle**

(1) Reasoning with men

- (a) **Trying to reason with men might help a bit, but it won't accomplish what you hope for. What will happen is that even men who say they are on Yahweh's side, will often default to doing their own thing! You can go to the "great men", the leaders and influencers, those who claim to know the Lord and His ways, but you will soon discover they have actually broken away from His covenants. It's tragic, but these men and those who follow them will be judged with the wicked!** ""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. **Though they say, 'As the Lord lives,' Surely they swear falsely."** O Lord, **are not Your eyes on the truth?** You have stricken them, But they have not grieved; You have consumed them, But they have refused to receive correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; They have refused to return. Therefore I said, **"Surely these are poor. They are foolish; For they do not know the way of the Lord, The judgment of their God. I will go to the great men and speak to them, For they have known the way of the Lord, The judgment of their God."** But these have **altogether broken the yoke And burst the bonds.** Therefore a lion from the forest shall slay them, A wolf of the deserts shall destroy them; A leopard will watch over their cities. **Everyone who goes out from there shall be torn in pieces, Because their transgressions are many; Their backslidings have increased."** Jeremiah 5:1-6 NKJV

(2) Who are we really fighting?

- (a) **This is why, in the end, you must accept that the battle is in the spirit realm, not against flesh and blood!**

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the

power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, **but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.**" Ephesians 6:10-12 NKJV

### **Summary: MATTERS OF CONTROVERSY**

2. The Righteous: "for justice will return to the righteous, and all the upright in heart will follow it." Psalm 94:15 ESV

A. Who's in charge? It must be "the righteous!"

(1) In matters of controversy, go to the Priest

(a) If you have a matter to settle, go to a righteous man of God and He will tell you exactly what to do!

(2) Follow their orders!

(a) The sentence pronounced by the judge must be followed to the letter because it was decided precisely according to God's laws. God's laws govern all decisions, without compromise. This is why a righteous judge (one who is obeying God himself) is the one pronouncing the sentence!

(3) Don't presume you will get away with non-compliance



- (a) It would be very presumptuous of you to think you can rebel against the rulings set forth by the God-appointed judge and get away with it!

B. Where do you fit in all of this? How do you become one of Yahweh's righteous, justice-inspired judges!

- (1) It's not just an Old-Testament thing—God is looking for righteous judges even now!

- (a) It's clear that if there are any matters between believers, then those things should be settled in the Church. We see that we are also given charge to rule over things outside the Church. But the big question is this. Who should be appointed to do so? It is clear that it should be those who are highly esteemed. And it should also be clear that no-one can be considered such unless they are living as described earlier in Deuteronomy (*a righteous judge, one who is obeying God himself, is the one pronouncing the sentence!*)

- (b) So, how do you become a “man-of-God” worthy of “judge status” as indicated I Corinthians 6:1-5?

(2) Pursue Righteousness

- (a) Pursue Righteousness as you run from your old ways. Live with a pure heart and be capable of settling

disagreements, humbly and gently correcting any opposition, and perhaps some will come to their senses!

(b) Live godly lives and know His Word. When the Word is in you and informs all you think, say and do, you will be well-equipped for judge status! You will have the role of imparting good doctrine and instructing others in what is righteous. And you will be capable of administering reproof and correction, much like we see in the role of the judge in Deuteronomy. *(The sentence pronounced by the judge must be followed to the letter because it was decided precisely according to God's laws. God's laws govern all decisions, without compromise.)*

(c) Remember, when you are radically obedient to Yahweh, you are in charge!

### (3) Practice Righteousness

(a) It's not a "special calling." ALL born-again Christians are commanded to practice righteousness.

(b) The math is simple; He who practices righteousness is righteous and is not living in sin. Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God!

### (4) Discern Righteousness

- (a) Nothing New! It was Yahweh's intention from the beginning that we conquer sin. Sin is lawlessness so it is obvious that we are to master the law in order to rule over sin!
- 1) Practicing sin is the antithesis of practicing righteousness. Y'shua came to take away the sins we commit, yes, but also to empower us to STOP SINNING!
- (b) The time is coming and is close at hand when there will be a great divide and final separation between those who know Yahweh and those who don't. Those who do will become the judges who separate the righteous from the wicked!
- (c) The authority of the wicked will NO LONGER rule over the righteous and you will be required to pick a side! If you extend a hand to the wicked you will be judged with them!
- (d) Mature believers are those who are prepared to judge. What marks that maturity? You must be skilled in the word of righteousness (pursue, practice and discern what is righteous!). You must be able to discern good and evil!

1) Notice that in the Garden it was a sin to apprehend the maturity to know good and evil spoken about in Hebrews 5. What's the distinction? The way you come to that knowledge! Hijack it or become skilled in the word of righteousness? What irony! Your actions of disobeying God's commands, even to apprehend something that God ultimately wants you to have, is the very thing that will keep you from having what God wants for you!

- (e) In your pursuit of righteousness, you will come up against wicked forces who wish to pervert the truth, calling good evil and evil good!
- (f) Don't allow good and evil to become convoluted. The kingdom is about righteousness. And those who pursue, practice, and discern righteousness are best equipped to manifest the kingdom!

(5) The Reward for Righteousness!

- (a) Righteousness will endure and will be rewarded!

### C. The Final Battle

(1) Reasoning with men

- (a) Trying to reason with men might help a bit, but it won't accomplish what you hope for. What will happen is that even men who say they are on Yahweh's side, will often

default to doing their own thing! You can go to the “great men”, the leaders and influencers, those who claim to know the Lord and His ways, but you will soon discover they have actually broken away from His covenants. It’s tragic, but these men and those who follow them will be judged with the wicked!

(2) Who are we really fighting?

(a) This is why, in the end, you must accept that that battle is in the spirit realm, not against flesh and blood!

## ANCIENT BOUNDARIES

3. **The Way:** “for justice will return to the righteous, and all **the upright in heart will follow it.**” Psalm 94:15 ESV

### A. **Yahweh does not change!**

(1) Your default setting must be to rule according to God’s laws—don’t move the ancient “boundaries.”

(a) “**“You shall not remove your neighbor’s landmark,** which the men of old have set, in your inheritance which you will inherit in the land that the Lord your God is giving you to possess.” Deuteronomy 19:14 NKJV

(2) He will not change; if you have, turn back!

- (a) **Yahweh does not change. If you think things have changed, you are the one who is wrong and it's time to return to His ways!** **““For I am the Lord, I do not change;** Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. Yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances And have not kept them. **Return to Me, and I will return to you,”** Says the Lord of hosts. “But you said, ‘In what way shall we return?’”  
Malachi 3:6-7 NKJV

(3) Y'shua does not change!

- (a) **In case you were wondering if the rules were different because you know Jesus, let's take short journey through His own words!** “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” Hebrews 13:8 NKJV

- 1) **I can of Myself do nothing.**
- 2) **I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will.**
- 3) **I have come in My Father's name; others comes in their own name**
- 4) **How can you believe those who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?**

- 5) Who accuses you—Moses. If you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?
- 6) “My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine.
- 7) He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory.
- 8) He who seeks the glory of the Yahweh has no unrighteousness in Him.
- 9) Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law?
- 10) I have not come of Myself, but He sent Me.
- 11) Why do you not understand My speech?
- 12) Because You are of your father the devil. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources
- 13) He who is of God hears God’s words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God.
- 14) And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him...
- 15) He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him.

**16) I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.**

**17) The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but from the Father who dwells in Me.**

**(b) Scripture References for the above!**

1) **"I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me."**

John 5:30 NKJV

2) **"I do not receive honor from men. But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you. I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God? Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"** John 5:41-47 NKJV



- 3) "Jesus answered them and said, **"My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine,** whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. **He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory;** but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and **no unrighteousness** is in Him. **Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law?** Why do you seek to kill Me?" John 7:16-19 NKJV
- 4) "Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; **nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand My speech?** Because you are not able to listen to My word. **You are of your father the devil,** and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. **When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources,** for he is a liar and the father of it. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? **He who is**

**of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."** John 8:42-47 NKJV

- 5) "And if **anyone hears My words** and does not believe, **I do not judge him**; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. **He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him** in the last day. For **I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.** And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak." John 12:47-50 NKJV
- 6) "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? **The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority**; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works." John 14:10 NKJV

## **B. Your True North; Walk in His Ways**

### (1) True North

- (a) True north is north according to the earth's axis, not magnetic north. Magnetic north is ever shifting a little to

the left and a little to the right. True north is the same yesterday, today, and forever! Does that sound familiar?

1) “A man’s heart plans his way, But **the Lord directs his steps.**” Proverbs 16:9 NKJV

2) “**In the light of the king’s face is life,** And his favor is like a cloud of the latter rain.” Proverbs 16:15 NKJV

(2) You shall walk in Yahweh’s commands!

(a) **Walk according to His commands and don’t stray left or right!** “But as for you, stand here by Me, and I will speak to you all the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which you shall teach them, that they may observe them in the land which I am giving them to possess.’ **“Therefore you shall be careful to do as the Lord your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. You shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God has commanded you**, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess.” Deuteronomy 5:31-33 NKJV

(b) **Is this not exactly what we just saw as the parameters to obey when ruled over by righteous judge? Be careful to do according to all that they order you, according to the sentence of the law; you shall not turn aside to the**

**right hand or to the left!** “You shall do according to the sentence which they pronounce upon you in that place which the Lord chooses. **And you shall be careful to do according to all that they order you. According to the sentence of the law in which they instruct you,** according to the judgment which they tell you, **you shall do; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left** from the sentence which they pronounce upon you.” Deuteronomy 17:10-11 NKJV

(3) Let your eyes look straight ahead

- (a) **The wisdom of Solomon: Let your eyes look straight ahead; ponder the path of your feet; do not turn to the right or the left.** “But **the path of the just is like the shining sun,** That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. **The way of the wicked is like darkness;** They do not know what makes them stumble. My son, **give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings.** Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh. **Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.** Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you. **Let your eyes look straight ahead, And**

**your eyelids look right before you. Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.” Proverbs 4:18-27 NKJV**

(4) This is the way—walk in it

- (a) **If you stray to the right or left, those who teach righteousness will instruct you...This is the way, walk in it!** “And though the Lord gives you The bread of adversity and the water of affliction, **Yet your teachers will not be moved** into a corner anymore, **But your eyes shall see your teachers.** Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “**This is the way, walk in it,**” **Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.”** Isaiah 30:20-21 NKJV

(5) Walk Just as He Walked

- (a) **It’s comes down to this! Liars do not keep His commands and those who do ought to walk just as Y’shua walked.** “Now by this we know that we know Him, **if we keep His commandments. He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.** But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. **He who says he**

**abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.” I John 2:3-6 NKJV**

(b) See [Walk Just as He Walked](#)

(6) In the end we circle back to this place...

(a) **Pursue Righteousness as you run from your old ways.**

**Live with a pure heart and be capable of settling disagreements, humbly and gently correcting any opposition, and perhaps some will come to their**

**senses! “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue**

**righteousness**, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility **correcting those who are in opposition**, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may **come to their senses** and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.” II Timothy 2:22-26 NKJV

(b) **And if they do not...Trying to reason with men might help a bit, but it won’t accomplish what you hope for.**

**What will happen is that even men who say they are on Yahweh’s side, will often default to doing their own**

**thing! You can go to the “great men”, the leaders and influencers, those who claim to know the Lord and His ways, but you will soon discover they have actually broken away from His covenants. It’s tragic, but these men and those who follow them will be judged with the wicked!**

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## **QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION**

### **1. Explain in your own words what the Psalmist means by:**

- A. “Justice will again be found in the courts, and all righteous people will support it.”
- B. “Shall the throne of iniquity, which devises evil by law, have fellowship with Yahweh?”
- C. “Workers of iniquity gather together against the life of the righteous, and condemn innocent blood.?”

### **2. Israel was to have priests acting as judges:**

- A. How were they supposed to judge the people?
- B. What does it mean to pervert justice and twist the words of the righteous?

### **3. What protocols were to be used in matters of controversy?**

- A. Who made the final determination?

B. What happened to those who would not adhere to their ruling?

**4. Describe how you can do the following:**

A. Pursue righteousness

B. Practice righteousness

C. Discern righteousness

**5. With all the iniquity in the world, who then are we really fighting against?**

**6. What does it mean to...**

A. Walk in the ways of Yahweh?

B. Not turn to the left or the right?

C. Walk just as Y'shua walked?