

God is Just

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study
Selected Scripture

As we read history and watch modern rulers, it is easy to spot their abuses of authority. All too often they prove the cliché, absolute power can corrupt absolutely. But, the charge of injustice can never be brought against God's judicial authority. He never acts in an unjust manner. He never abuses authority. In a word, He is righteous and completely just. God always does what is right.

I. The Righteousness of God

A. God is Judge

1. God and God alone is the judge over the entire universe.
 - a) **1 Samuel 2:10**, *The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed."*
 - b) **Psalm 98:9**, *Before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity. (Ps. 96:10, 13)*
 - c) **Psalm 75:7**, *But it is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another.*
2. God has committed all judgment to His Son, Jesus Christ.
 - a) **John 5:22**, *For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, John 5:27, And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.*
 - b) **Matthew 25:31-32**.
3. This truth was established in the early days of the church.
 - a) **Acts 10:42**, *And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.*
 - b) **Acts 17:31**, *Because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."*
 - c) **Revelation 20:11-15**
 - d) **2 Corinthians 5:10**, *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.*

B. God is Just

1. In every dealing with man, God is just. (**Genesis 18:25**, *Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?"* (Just – mispat – This speaks to the quality of God's judgment. It is free from favoritism, self-interest, bias, or deception.) The judgment always "fits the crime."
2. Moses, the lawgiver, declares, **Deuteronomy 32:3-4**, *For I will proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God! 4 "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.*
3. Every judicial decision by God is anchored in unwavering equity.

C. God is Impartial

1. God doesn't play favorites. He does not have variable standards for different groups of people.
 - a) **Deuteronomy 10:17**, *For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe.*
2. The balance of God's judgment can not be weighed in this life alone.
 - a) **Matthew 5:12**, *Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*
3. Every act of service will be rewarded by God
 - a) **Matthew 10:41-42**, *The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. 42 And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."*

- b) **Colossians 3:23–24**, *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.*
- c) **1 Peter 3:14**, *But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,*
- d) 1 Peter 4:14; Revelation 22:12
- e) **James 1:12 (ESV)** — **12** Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

D. God is Avenging

- 1. **Deuteronomy 32:35**, *Vengeance is mine, and recompense, for the time when their foot shall slip; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and their doom comes swiftly.'*
- 2. **Psalm 94:1**, *O Lord, God of vengeance, O God of vengeance, shine forth!*
- 3. **Psalm 129:1-4**
- 4. How long? **Revelation 6:9-10, 11; 16:5-6; 19:1-2.**
- 5. God will settle all accounts in the end.

E. God is Punishing

- 1. The devastating punishment of sin (**Genesis 2:16-17, 3:23**)
- 2. The wicked will not remain unpunished
 - a) **Proverbs 11:21**, *Be assured, an evil person will not go unpunished, but the offspring of the righteous will be delivered.*
 - b) **Isaiah 59:18**, *According to their deeds, so will he repay, wrath to his adversaries, repayment to his enemies; to the coastlands he will render repayment.*
- 3. The concept of God's punitive judgment carries to the New Testament
 - a) **Romans 6:23**, *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
 - b) **Hebrews 2:2–3 (ESV)** — **2** For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, **3** how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard,
 - c) **Hebrews 10:29; James 1:15.**

F. God is Justifier

- 1. **Romans 3:26**, *It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*
 - a) God is perfectly "just" in that He administers perfect justice for sin in the death of His Son.
 - (1) **Romans 8:33–34**, *Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.*
 - (2) He is just and justifier.
- 2. What does this "transaction" look like
 - a) **Romans 4:3**, *For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness."*
 - b) **Romans 4:5**, *And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,*
 - c) **Philippians 3:9**, *And be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—*
 - d) **Romans 3:21-22; 2 Cor 5:21; Galatians 2:16, Matthew 3:15**

II. Are you Ready?

- A. The day is approaching when every person will stand before the Judge of the universe, Jesus Christ and give an account of every action, thought, motive, and affection.
- B. You will either stand alone or with an attorney present.
 - 1. **1 John 2:1–2**, *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.*