

Justice, justice you must pursue

Parashat Shoftim ([D'varim/Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9](#)) 5782 B"H

Justice in the Land of Israel

This passage in D'varim (Deuteronomy) details how the nation of Israel should achieve justice for its inhabitants.

Here we find instructions regarding the appointing of judges, the process through which legal claims should be investigated, as well as the necessity for legitimate witnesses to be present at trial.

Even among God's chosen people, there would be criminals.

There would be those who would intentionally cheat others.

And surely there would be an Israelite or two who would steal from others.

In extreme cases, one would end up murdering another and undoubtedly a few would turn from the God of Israel to seek after false gods using sorcery and witchcraft.

So the Word of God addresses all of this:

["So you are to purge the evil from your midst." Deuteronomy 17:7b](#)

Rebellion does not have to be the future for your family

Samuel told Saul in [1 Samuel 15:23](#) that rebellion is as bad as

witchcraft and that stubbornness is like idolatry.

The world applauds rebellion and even expects it in *their* teenagers.

Dear reader, if you are a disciple of Messiah, rebellion does *not* have to be the future for your children.

Do not accept society's norms.

Align your lifestyle to the Word of the LORD. Train your children to love the LORD with all their heart.

Show them the calamity that rebellion brings and pray that they will choose obedience and grace over chaos and self-destruction.

Biblical Justice

Sadly, today, the very term "justice" has become obfuscated by those who would pervert justice to suit their own desires and agendas. Some even *worship* the goddess "justice."

Yet real Biblical justice is intended to be at the core of our faith!

So we need to understand true Biblical justice.

Biblical justice is about fairness. In the United States, we enjoy a special legal system which attempts to ensure fairness when one is accused. The system is not perfect and those who run the system are certainly fallible, but a high precedent is set and the expectation in our country is that justice can be served.

In many other countries, this is not the case. Tyrants and dictators do not favor due process and corruption prevails. Those of us who live in free nations ought be very grateful, and we must pray for those in authority so that the legal system can be trusted and fair trials ensured.

American Jurisprudence

Did you know that our legal system in the U.S. and procedures for due process are based on Torah?

Indeed, the American legal system was profoundly shaped by the writings of the Hebrew Scriptures. The 14th Amendment, in particular, reflects the concept that all citizens deserve equal protection under the law. Due process is based on this Biblical concept: "Justice, justice, you shall pursue."

["Justice, justice you must pursue, so that you may live and possess the land that ADONAI your God is giving you."](#)
[Deuteronomy 16:20](#), *emphasis added*

Trying to memorize Scripture?

Notice this particular verse in the TLV translation nearly rhymes, making it an easy verse to memorize.

Justice, justice you must pursue

so that you may live and possess the land that ADONAI your God is giving you.

Justice and Righteousness are better than sacrifice

The Holy Scriptures tell us that

["To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to ADONAI than sacrifice."](#) Proverbs 21:3



To do righteousness and justice
is more acceptable to ADONAI
than sacrifice.

Proverbs 21:3



ADONAI SHALOM
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A sacrifice may atone for one particular sin, but if we live consistently in justice and righteousness, there would ultimately be no need for sacrifice because sin would be averted.

We are not perfect; however, and sin does creep into our lives.

There is nothing greater than the sacrifice Yeshua haMashiach (Jesus Christ) made for us. He lived in perfect righteousness and justice and also sacrificed Himself on behalf of us sinners, to make [atonement](#) for us.

As believers who have placed our hope and trust in our Savior, the best way we can demonstrate our gratitude is by living as He would – seeking justice and truly pursuing righteousness. We cannot possibly do so perfectly, but we ought to try. We ought to show a rebellious world how wonderful and different life can be when we strive to live in righteousness.

Ways we can seek to live in justice

and righteousness

Honoring others, demonstrating love, quieting our attitudes, dressing modestly, reaching out to our neighbors offering help and kindness, minding our tongue so as not to speak judgmentally, offering genuine hospitality, managing our resources with wisdom and prudence, and creating a gentle home atmosphere so that our families live peaceably . . . these are all ways we can seek to live in justice and righteousness.

It isn't enough to tell a rebellious world that we know a better way. We must show the world that we are different: they will know we are Christians by our love.

We have a new hope today. The criminal can be forgiven. The thief can be restored. The liar can learn Truth. The Messiah of Israel came to this earth to live and to die on behalf of those who would put their trust in His Name. You are not too far gone. Maybe you have lived a life of rebellion. Maybe you think there is no hope for you. What you need to know today is there is a Savior who loves you and He died so that you could live eternally in heaven with Him.

Please, put your trust in Him today. His divine and righteousness justice could have condemned us all for all eternity, but His love is such that He chose to save us, if we will allow Him into our hearts. He is so very just that we are all found guilty, but He chose to forgive us.

Will you trust Him today? We will you allow His righteousness to cover you? He loves you, and He wants to welcome you into His Kingdom as His very own child.

If you have made a commitment to trust in the Messiah, the Savior of the world, Yeshua (Jesus), please let us know! Please leave a comment so we can pray for you as you learn to walk under His righteous covering. You don't have to fear. He is willing to forgive you, even today.

How our family celebrates the Feast of Tabernacles

Here in the north, planning for Sukkot requires consideration of the temperatures, especially when Sukkot is in October. This year, Sukkot starts in September, so we may not be such Frozen Chosen this year. Even so, the evenings are definitely crisp, so soups and stews are some of the best foods to serve during the feast. I recommend planning at least a week in advance so you don't need to worry about your menu items during the feast.

What would you ask from Yeshua?

wisdom has been ascribed to Solomon. The Proverbs attributed to Solomon, however, do employ this term frequently. Here in 1 Kings 3, a form of the word chokhmah is used, chakham, but only by God Himself. God answers Solomon's request for understanding and discernment by calling it wisdom (chakham).

Surgery? Covid-19? Anxiety? Bible verses to comfort you

Then [Yeshua/Jesus] continued telling them, [“Nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes along with famines and epidemics in various places, and there will be terrors along with great signs from heaven. Luke 21:10-11, emphasis added](#)

**Do you have quarantine fatigue?
Tired of wearing a mask in the
middle of the hot summer? You're
not alone.**

None of us want to hear more about Covid-19, yet this pestilence doesn't seem to be ending. We know we are in the last days, so we should not be surprised by these occurrences. Our Messiah cautioned us that there would be outbreaks of sickness. **The pandemic is not over, and we must exercise wisdom and caution.**

As though that isn't enough to worry about, some of us struggle with anxiety issues. You might not get Covid, but you might be living in *fear* that you will. May you find *shalom* in the words of Scripture.

I recently had to have an unexpected surgery. Believe me, I was anxious! Anything to do with needles gets me quite riled up. But the LORD is faithful! He gave me a Word just days prior from [Isaiah 58:8-10](#), and the promise contained within provided me the peace I so desperately needed.

[“Then your light will break out like the dawn,
and your recovery will spring up quickly;](#)

and your Righteousness will go before you;

the Glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.

Then you will call, and the LORD will answer;

you will cry for help, and He will say, 'Here I am.'"

Isaiah 58:8-10, Tree of life version

I would like to share some other Scripture passages that I believe will help you in whatever situation you find yourself in. Rely on His strength, and I assure you, He will comfort you and free you from fear!

To begin, Psalm 27 is a wonderful Psalm to help overcome fear. The first verse is very well known:

ADONAI is my light and my salvation:

whom should I fear?

ADONAI is the stronghold of my life:

whom should I dread?

Psalm 27:1, TLV

What is needed in times of trouble is **confidence**. Being confident in the LORD means you have the ability to trust that the One in whom you have placed your trust for your salvation is able in the here and now to help you. Psalm 27 address this as well:

Though an army camp besieges me, my heart will not fear.

Though war breaks out against me, even then will I be confident.

Psam 27:3, TLV

Use the Psalms as a springboard for prayer.

The Almighty and Eternal One has helped you before. He will help you again.

You have been my help.

Do not abandon me or forsake me,

O God my salvation.

Psalm 27:9cd, TLV

I love how Psalm 27 ends, particularly as translated by the New King James Version.



Bible Gateway Blogger Grid Member
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*I would have lost heart, unless I had believed
That I would see the goodness of the LORD
In the land of the living.*

*Wait on the LORD:
Be of good courage,
And He shall strengthen your heart;*

[Wait, I say, on the LORD!](#)

Psalm 27:13-14, NKJV, emphasis added

I would have lost heart, unless I had believed

That I would see the goodness of the LORD

In the land of the living.

Wait on the LORD:

Be of good courage,

And He shall strengthen your heart;

Wait, I say, on the LORD!

Psalm 27:13-14

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Psalm 30 is another wonderful Psalm of encouragement.

[ADONAI my God, I cried to You for help, and You healed me.](#)

Psalm 30:2

Do not ALLOW your heart to be troubled

I feel that the Ruach haKodesh (the Holy Spirit) illuminated

me to an important spiritual reality, the day I was set for surgery. He reminded me of Yeshua's words in [John 14:1](#) "**Do not let your heart be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me.**" There's an imperative in there – do not *LET*. Do not *ALLOW*. Do not *PERMIT*.

But that means you and I, we have a choice here. Our emotions can really mess with us, but we are to take control over that by keeping our mind renewed and set on spiritual things. Scripture tells us to take our thoughts captive:

[. . . We are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Messiah . . .](#)

2 Cor.10:5

When I started to really think about that, I found myself better able to control my fear. That's the key, isn't it? *Controlling* your fear, so fear doesn't control you. I kept telling my heart it was not *allowed* to fear. I have not been given the spirit of fear, but of love, power, and a *sound mind* ([2 Tim.1:7](#)). He has given us authority, so we need to use trust Him and use it ([Luke 10:19](#)). Yeshua repeats this instruction in verse 27 of the same chapter:

["Shalom I leave you, My shalom I give to you; but not as the world gives! Do not let your heart be troubled or afraid."](#)

John 14:27

**Faithfulness + Faith = Confidence
that you will be delivered from
your fears**

Do you have a track record of being faithful to the LORD and His mission? Overcoming anxiety truly becomes a matter of

faith. If you have diligently sought the LORD prior to undergoing a test or trial, it will naturally be easier for you to rely on Him during the storm and you will be able to confidently confess that He has delivered you from all your fears.

Magnify ADONAI with me

and let us exalt His Name together.

I sought ADONAI, and He answered me,

and delivered me from all my fears.

They who looked to Him were radiant,

and their faces will never be ashamed.

This poor man cried, and ADONAI heard,

and saved him out of all his troubles.

Psalm 34:4-7

Psalm 34 really highlights the way that the LORD reciprocates His love toward those who love and trust in Him.

The righteous cry out and ADONAI hears,
and delivers them from all their troubles.

ADONAI is close to the brokenhearted,
and saves those crushed in spirit.

Many are the distresses of the righteous,
but ADONAI delivers him out of them all.

He keeps all his bones—
not one of them is broken.

Evil kills the wicked—
those who hate the righteous will be held guilty.

ADONAI redeems the soul of His servants
—no one who takes refuge in Him will be held guilty.

Psalm 34:18-23, TLV (v.17-22 in most other English translations such as NKJV)



The righteous cry out
and ADONAI hears,
and delivers them
from all their troubles.

PSALM 34:18, TLV



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Psalm 34:18, *Tree of Life Version*

As does Psalm 55:22 (v.23, TLV):

*Cast your burden on ADONAI, and He will sustain you.
He will never let the righteous be shaken.*

Psalm 55:23, TLV (Psalm 55:22, customary)

Remember who it is He says you are

As a believer, if you have determined to love the LORD your God with all your heart, and follow Messiah Yeshua, you are part of a Holy Nation, the Royal Priesthood of believers. You have been saved, sanctified, set apart, and His promises go right along with that.

“Then it will happen, as a result of your listening to these ordinances, when you keep and do them, that ADONAI your God will keep with you the covenant kindness that He swore to your fathers. He will love you, bless you and multiply you. He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the produce of your soil, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock, in the land that He swore to your fathers to give you. From all peoples, you will be blessed—there will not be male or female barren among you or your livestock. ADONAI will remove all sickness from you, and He will not inflict on you any of the terrible diseases of Egypt that you knew, but will inflict them on all who hate you.”

Deuteronomy 7:12-15, TLV

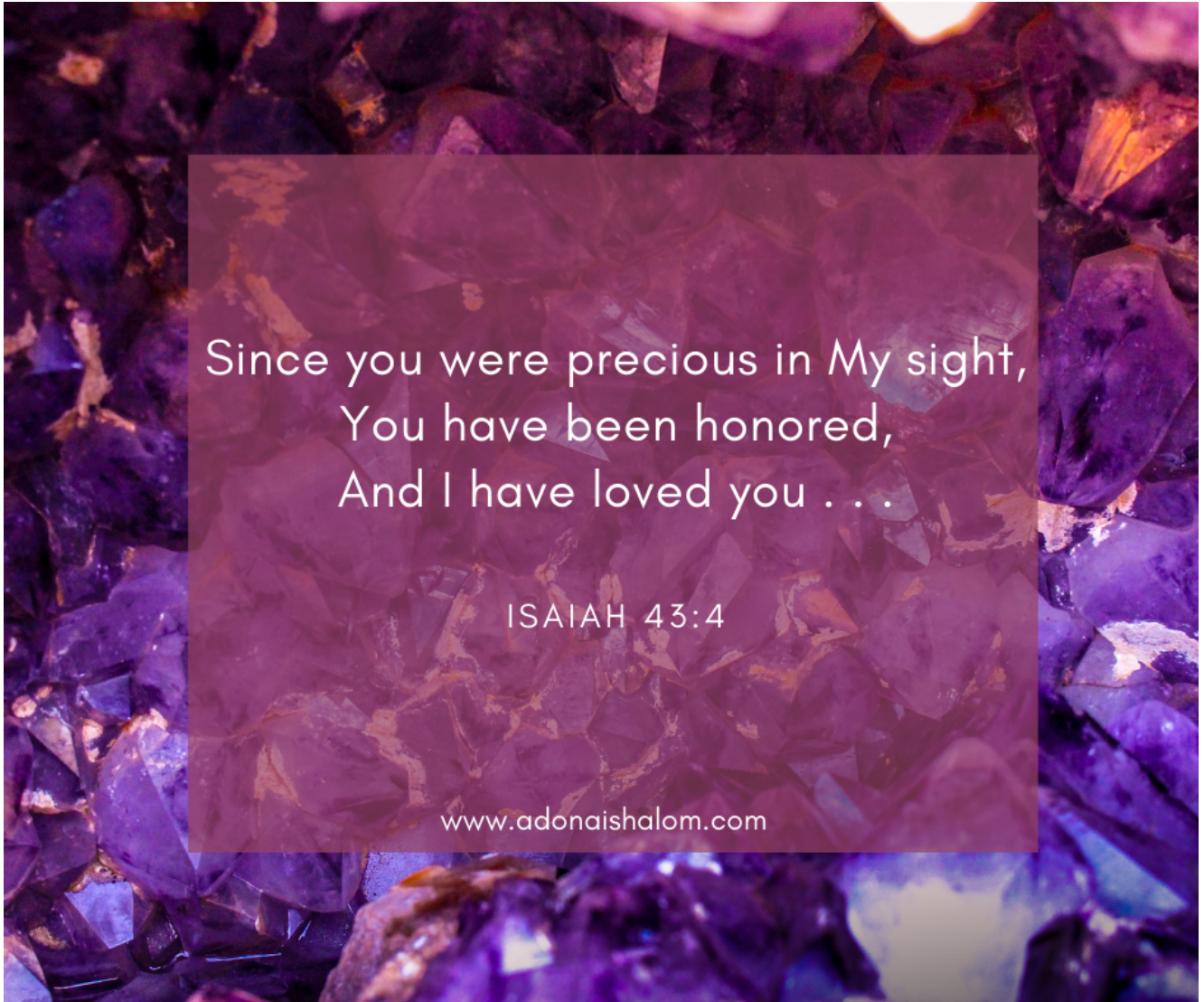
So remember, the LORD loves you, and He will honor your faithfulness.

Since you were precious in My sight,

You have been honored,

And I have loved you

Isaiah 43:4, NKJV



Have you been encouraged today? What are some of YOUR favorite Bible passages to get you through a tough time? Comment below! Shalom, mishpocha

Tzedek, Tzadik, & Tzedakah: Matthew 6:3-4 through a Hebraic lens

Charitable giving is tracked, graphed, sought-after, solicited, pleaded for, telethoned for . . . and for good reason – there is a healthy motivation when all parties involved win. But how charitable is our charitable giving, if it is done for a reward?

Psalm 19:8-10

The *Torah* of ADONAI is perfect, restoring the soul.

The **testimony** of ADONAI is trustworthy, making the simple wise.

The **precepts** of ADONAI are right, giving joy to the heart.

The *mitzvot* of ADONAI are pure, giving light to the eyes.

The **fear** of ADONAI is clean, enduring forever.

The **judgments** of ADONAI are true and altogether righteous.

TLV